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THE
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
OF A
LIMB OF THE LAW;
BY
MICHAEL FAGG, Esq. K. C.
AND
BENCHER OF THE HON. SOCIETY OF LINCOLN'S INN:
INTERSPERSED WITH
ANECDOTES OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES,
MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

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1836.



TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

GENTLEMEN,

I am induced to dedicate this work to you from a conviction that, from your position in society and importance as a body, you stand unrivalled; and that you can boast of having among you men as much distinguished for their learning and intelligence, as for their integrity and high sense of honour.

But notwithstanding these manifest advantages, the conduct of some members of the profession has indeed subjected it to much odium; and, among many other errors equally glaring, not the least conspicuous is that rapacious and reprehensible disposition to "pouch the costs," whether obtained justly or unjustly; in the pursuit of this object the interests of the client are frequently lost sight of, or, if recurred to at all, are objects of secondary consideration.

That an attorney who does justice to his client, is not too exorbitantly paid by the present scale of charges, may be fearlessly asserted, when his heavy expenditure, and the immense personal labour he necessarily encounters is considered. But very different

feelings may justly be entertained with respect to those practitioners who make it almost their exclusive study to pick loopholes in the proceedings of the respectable members of the profession; not for the laudable purpose of protecting the poor man against the attacks of the rich and the wiles of the crafty, but for the mercenary and selfish one of pocketing costs. Such conduct is highly culpable and disgraceful in the members of a profession calling themselves liberal and enlightened, and ought never to have been countenanced; opening as it does, a vast field, not only for ruinous expense, vexation, and disappointment, but endless litigation, and ultimate ruin.

The law was originally designed for the furtherance of justice and the preservation of right, or, in other words, to protect the innocent, and secure punishment to the guilty; but when instances daily occur of the very reverse of these principles prevailing, in the defeat of the honest man's claim, and in the rescinding of contracts which parties entered into with their eyes open, either through the dexterity of counsel in discovering what is vulgarly termed, "a flaw," or from non-conformity with some of those absurd Forms that have been handed down to us from time immemorial, and consecrated by use, an inference may fairly be drawn that the law has been perverted to uses for which it was never intended; and, instead of being a staff to the innocent and a terror to the guilty, it has thrown its shield around the dishonest and unprincipled portion of the community, for whose correction and punishment it was intended.

That a great many of these evils are to be ascribed to the Judges of the land, is as notorious as the sun at

neyn-day, whose recent batch of Rules, if originally framed for the purpose of misleading, could not have attained that end better than they do at the present moment. It is much to be regretted that these learned personages, in their collective wisdom, when they concoct and promulgate Rules for the government of their respective Courts, do not lop off some of that mystification and senseless jargon with which they abound, and endeavour to make them at least sufficiently comprehensible to those for whose observance they were intended.

It is no unusual circumstance at chambers to see one of their lordships thrust the papers of the respective disputants into his pocket, in order that he may have the benefit of a consultation with one of his learned brethren, previous to his deciding the matter in dispute, which not unfrequently arises on the construction of some or other of the New Rules; yet, notwithstanding the daily recurrence of these facts, the Judges expect the members of the profession to comprehend their New Rules, though their lordships, by whom they were framed, do not themselves clearly comprehend them.

These glaring defects in our system of jurisprudence are principally to be attributed to this circumstance:—The Judges, when elevated to the bench, are generally men advanced in years, and very frequently afflicted with some of those disorders incidental to age which at times affect and impair the understanding; and hence it is, that while labouring under some of these mental or bodily infirmities, perhaps both, they are sometimes irritable and captious, and in order to get rid of the gabble of the contending parties, very frequently make

some of the most absurd and unjust Orders that can possibly be conceived. There are certainly some few exceptions to these general observations.

It is an indisputable fact that an implicit submission to what is denominated "Legal Precedents," has been another source of error; the absurdity, to say nothing of the injustice, of deciding cases now-a-days by the test of former decisions, must be apparent to every candid and reflecting mind. Every case should be decided upon its own merits, without any reference to the opinions or decisions of our predecessors. The blunders of one age cannot justify those of another; what was in days of yore just and expedient, may now, by reason of a change of times and circumstances, be injudicious and improper. If the Law of England is to be superseded by former decisions, let us have those decisions, and the grounds and reasons for making them, drawn up by some competent person, and signed by the presiding Judge or Judges, as the case may be, before they are brought forward or allowed to be referred to as cases in point; but let not the crude and imperfect Reports of adjudged cases be ushered into existence to mislead the public.

The tremendous evils occasioned by this ready acquiescence to individual dictation are incalculable.—This implicit submission to the opinion of others undoubtedly demands some speedy and efficient remedy, perpetrating, as it does, in nine cases out of ten, the most flagrant injustice, and rendering nugatory the established principles of the law of the land.

That the profession of the law is one of the noblest sciences that can possibly engage the human mind, is an incontrovertible fact; that the law itself, as well as

a great many of those who profess it, stand in need of a thorough reformation, is equally incontrovertible ; and until it is so reformed, not only in theory but in practice, and made to accord as well with its original design as to the times in which we live, the “glorious uncertainty of the law” will ever continue a fit subject for public raillery.

This work was written at intervals, when more profitable occupation was, by me, unobtainable. I have endeavoured to exhibit a faithful picture of the vicissitudes experienced in a most eventful life, not exempt from the faults and foibles incidental to human nature ; how far I have succeeded in my delineations I must leave to the judgment of a candid and discerning public.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

With profound respect,

Your most obedient servant,

M. FAGG.

Lincoln's Inn,
January, 1836.



THE
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
OF A
LIMB OF THE LAW.

CHAPTER I.

THERE prevails a general and indeed a natural desire to obtain some knowledge of the origin, and the circumstances connected with the elevation of men who attain to places of trust and distinction. If this feeling be prevalent in regard to the pedigrees of those who are more indebted to rank, wealth and influence, than to the elegance of their oratory, the brilliancy of their wit, or the solidity of their judgment; how much more ought it to be cherished when we see an individual emerge from obscurity and wade through hardships and perils to almost the highest pinnacle of professional ambition. Presuming that such an adventurous career cannot be otherwise than interesting and instructive, I proceed with my narrative.

I was born in that beautiful city called Cork, in the kingdom of Ireland, on Michaelmas morning in the year 1793, according to the register of

births which has been preserved in the family of FAGG, that being my sire's surname.

Any attempt to trace a long pedigree of illustrious ancestors, or the source from whence the name of Fagg is derived, however accurate it might be, would at present be superfluous and uninteresting; let it suffice to say, that I have never yet heard of their being allied either to statesmen, patriots, warriors, or highwaymen, who are considered the most distinguished characters of the human race; most probably they were, what their name indicates, a fagging and industrious class of people.

Having been ushered into existence on such a remarkable day, the gossips in our immediate vicinity, who came to congratulate my mother on having augmented the rising generation, pronounced me, according to accounts that have been handed down, to be "*a broth of a boy,*" and over a drop of potheen (which they took care to provide themselves with previous to setting out on their congratulatory visit) predicted that it would be improper, as well as unlucky, to call me by any other christian name than that of the saint. One however differed from the rest, and she was one whose reputed proficiency in the art of prophecy was generally known in the neighbourhood, having frequently foretold what subsequent events verified: her fame having been thus established, her mansion was daily besieged by anxious interrogators who flocked thither

from various parts of the country to consult her upon their respective grievances, whether real or imaginary: blooming damsels with demure countenances and faltering voices to learn the cause of the slight of their faithless swains, or to have the dreams which had disturbed their nocturnal slumbers interpreted, so as to afford them some clue to their future helpmates; dashing young bachelors, equally silly, responding as it were to the frailties of the softer sex; and, not unfrequently would their seniors in years and experience visit the dame to discover when they might reckon upon a legacy or windfall dropping in, by the dissolution of some enfeebled friend or relative, or to devise some stratagem by which the infidelity of their better halves might be detected, the tender flame having been many years extinct in their own frail tenements. Such were the visitors that sought an audience of this old sybil, and for which they generally paid in proportion to the magnitude of the expectations held out to them. Although she had resided in the neighbourhood for nearly half a century, she was never known to have quitted her own dwelling to communicate her oracular knowledge until the present occasion. A desire to pay a mark of grateful respect to my mother, of whose bounty she had frequently partaken, and, perhaps, curiosity, from the rumour that there was a great fuss and bother as to what name the boy should be called to whom she had given birth,

induced her in this instance to deviate from her usual course. The old sybil, after having examined me very minutely, assured my parents that it would be quite immaterial by what name I was called, as I should at an early period of my life exchange my own country for another, where, after undergoing many difficulties and privations, I should attain high rank and reputation in my profession, which she prognosticated would be that of a lawyer; my parents thereupon agreed that I should be named in compliance with the wish so generally expressed by their friends, and from thence I assumed the name of MIKE FAGG; how far the predictions respecting me have been fulfilled will appear in the sequel.

I was the youngest of four surviving children, an elder brother named Darby, and two sisters named Sukey and Norah; the former married one Felix O'Leary, a diminutive man with features remarkably large, particularly his nose, which fully attested his partiality to whisky punch, and, indeed, from the peculiar situation in which he was placed (being no less a personage than a tithe proctor) perhaps it could not be otherwise. Norah married an exciseman of the name of Denis Farrell, whose huge dimensions presented a ludicrous contrast to poor O'Leary; Farrell was alike famed for dipping his lips as well as his rod into what did not of right appertain to himself, being quite regardless of the in-

terests of the crown when his own interests were in jeopardy. Two characters more odious and generally detested by the people of Ireland than those of a tithe proctor and an exciseman, could not possibly be selected; such, however, were my family connections. My mother was a plain homely woman, and by no means the most accomplished in the world; yet she supplied the want of refinement by the assiduity and attention she bestowed on her family; her sole delight consisted in endeavouring to promote the comfort and happiness of her children, and she was, in truth, a most exemplary woman. My father, on the other hand, (who carried on the business of a tailor) was of a disposition the very reverse of my mother, being both indolent and extravagant; so that what the one heaped together with the assistance of her relations and by her own care and industry, was wasted and squandered by the other in the ale-house, whither he used to repair every evening, and seldom returned home till midnight. Two tempers so extremely different could not be expected to have enjoyed much domestic felicity. My mother though passionate, very soon forgot the cause of her anger, and was easily reconciled to her most implacable enemy; my father knowing well the temper he had to deal with, and how easily he could obtain forgiveness, imposed on her goodnature, and went on from one excess to another until he became totally callous and indifferent to every thing around him.

With stifled feelings of despair and despondency my mother observed the change in her husband's behaviour, and remonstrated frequently on the inevitable ruin that awaited him if he persisted in the course which he was pursuing; but these representations were treated by him as "woman's fears," and beneath the notice of a man enamoured of a "drop of the cratur," which he invariably designated as "the staff of the old and the decrepit."

While things wore this unfavourable aspect, a circumstance occurred which we hoped, if it did not altogether remove the irregular and dissipated habits of my father, would at least have the effect of checking his career for a while. The foreman (whose name was Teddy Delaney) in whose management of the business my father placed the most implicit confidence, having sojourned one night to ale-house hard by, where, after indulging in copious libations of the juice of the barley, he let drop a hint or two that in the absence of his master, who seldom troubled himself about business, he took care to use the *shears*,—a technical phrase signifying *cabbage* in a superlative degree. This insinuation having been communicated to my father his suspicions were aroused, and he determined on watching narrowly the manœuvres of his foreman. It was not long before he was detected carrying on his old game of cabbaging; but, on being accused of his malpractices, he solemnly declared, that he was as innocent as a

sucking babe, notwithstanding my father had ocular demonstration of the contrary being the fact; however, finding it useless to dissemble, he soon retracted his plea, and, acknowledging his guilt, fell at my father's feet and implored forgiveness in the most affecting manner in consideration of his wife and children. My father, without ever deigning to notice the repentant posture of his foreman, flew into a violent rage, and instead of handing him over to the rigours of the law, resolved on taking summary vengeance himself; for this purpose laying hold of the lapboard, which chanced to be the next portable article within his reach, he belaboured poor Teddy so unmercifully that his screams, together with the tumult and uproar, brought my mother running into the workshop to ascertain what the noise proceeded from, who, on being made acquainted with the particulars, so far interposed that the delinquent was allowed to decamp without further molestation, with a recommendation never again to shew his face within an Irish mile of the house.

My mother secretly rejoiced that Teddy's guilt had thus been fully established, as she anticipated that it would at least have the effect of producing a favourable change in the dissipated habits of my father. In this anticipation she was not altogether disappointed, for the next morning he vowed, that after being so much deceived in the integrity of his foreman, he never would

again entrust the management of his business to mortal man, but would in future superintend it himself. This resolution he kept for some time very scrupulously, straining every nerve to retrieve the shattered state of his affairs, but all to no purpose; his business having been so long neglected his best customers gradually withdrew from him, and were replaced by others who instead of making prompt payment made specious promises, which were seldom or never performed, and in nine cases out of ten the only satisfaction my father ever received, was the mortification of beholding his name and occupation, "Darby Fagg, Tailor," for no inconsiderable sums, in insolvents' schedules and bankrupts' balance sheets. These circumstances, incidental to men in business, and against which no human foresight can at times sufficiently guard, combined to ruin him; notwithstanding he made every effort to ward off the evil day which was certain to arrive. My mother, who had been expecting this event for some time, took the precaution of privately communicating with her brother, whose name was Cheek, stating the situation in which she was placed, and the inevitable ruin that stared her in the face, unless averted by speedy assistance. My uncle, who was an attorney and senechal of a manor court (a court established in various parts of Ireland for the recovery of sums not exceeding forty shillings), was a man not overflowing with the milk of human kindness,

replied that it was entirely out of his power to grant the succour required, having been disappointed in receiving some money which he had lent on mortgage; but if my mother thought proper to change her residence, and come and reside near himself, he would establish such credit for her husband as would enable him to resume his business. My father on being made acquainted with the purport of this communication, poured out a volley of abuse against my uncle, whom he denounced in no very measured terms, and said he would rather famish than be beholden to such a man for a single meal; however, as soon as his choler had oozed out, my mother represented to him that of two evils he had to choose the least: either to become the inmate of a prison, or avail himself of the proffered aid of her brother. The idea of the former was in the eyes of my father the greatest calamity that could befall him,—it being considered at that period an offence almost unpardonable, to get rid of debts lawfully contracted in any other than an honorable way: but, alas! how this opinion has been since exploded, every day's experience abundantly proves—he, therefore, reluctantly yielded, as a matter of necessity rather than of choice, to the force of circumstances over which he had no control.

CHAPTER II.

LEAVING my elder brother and sister with an aunt, who had previously taken them under her care, we quitted our native city, not without a tear, which fortitude itself could not repress, and set out for our new habitation, which was situate in the western part of Ireland, where my uncle carried on his professional operations, and after two days travelling arrived at our destination. Our reception by my uncle was such as might be expected under the circumstances.—The town of Kenmare was then principally, if not wholly, part of the extensive estate of the Marquis of L——, who is one of those absentee landlords that are the primary cause of all the miseries with which the people of Ireland are afflicted; it was then a dirty straggling town, the houses being both irregular and very indifferent, the owners or occupiers of which were worse fed and worse clad than any serfs on the face of the earth. We continued to live here for some years very comfortably, my father being enabled by the assistance of my uncle to resume his business, which through his influence daily improved.

I went to school here to one of those pedantic schoolmasters who were formerly so prevalent in my native land, of the name of O'Shaughnessy,

he was in height above the middle size, and rather thin and lankey; his countenance (the complexion of which resembled a mulberry) if taken as a criterion of his age, from the innumerable wrinkles therein contained, must at least have witnessed three score of hard winters, which when he chanced to be out of temper he contracted into a most hideous frown; his chin was long and pointed, with a nose of an enormous size equally prominent, which was studded all over with carbuncles or grog blossoms; his dress consisted of a large brown frieze coat, which partook of what is termed in fashionable phraseology "a Newmarket cut;" it was difficult to discover the colour of his waistcoat, which appeared at one time to have been black, but from hard wear and tear, and the large quantity of that snuff well known as the Irish blackguard, which his nasal organ was so well calculated to contain (a great portion of which fell on the aforesaid waistcoat) it assumed a brown or snuff colour; he usually wore a broad-brimmed hat, and a pair of half-boots, which shone most brilliantly, not as my readers may suppose, with Day and Martin's celebrated blacking, but with an equally shining material, namely, a piece of hog's lard which had been the constant companion of the chimney for several years, unless when brought into requisition by Felix (that being O'Shaughnessy's christian name); his spectacles were of a greenish colour, and when they were placed

upon his huge nose he exhibited a most ludicrous figure, rendered still more odd, if possible, by little grey eyes, resembling those of a ferret, which were arched over with a pair of heavy eyebrows ; he was, in a word, a true sample of those men who "teach the young ideas of Ireland how to shoot," and lived on the bounty and generosity of the striplings committed to his care, or rather on their parents', to whom he was in the constant habit of paying weekly visits in rotation, and as a matter of course shared "pot luck," the rights of hospitality being held by a majority of the people of Ireland as an imperative duty, and equally extended to the traveller, the unfortunate, the village schoolmaster, or to any other person whom chance or misfortune might happen to throw in their way ; his favour or partiality to his pupils was distributed in proportion to the treatment he experienced in his visits ; and those poor urchins whose parents were not in a situation to entertain him in a manner suitable to his taste, were treated as if they had been a different race of beings from their more opulent schoolfellows.

Our school house, which fronted the high road, was a spacious thatched building, with planks or forms placed on one side thereof, appropriated for those boys who made rapid strides in Voster's arithmetic ; from this class O'Shaughnessy selected his usher, who represented him whenever he chanced to be absent on any pres-

sing occasion, and who was invested with the same power and authority to punish, remit, or pardon any delinquent or disorderly character, as to such usher should seem meet ; on the other side were to be seen the poor dunces that lagged far behind in learning and knowledge, and who were compelled to perch their little carcasses on less comfortable seats, being no other than a heap of stones piled together and covered at the top with clover or green grass ; at the upper end of this academy of science might be seen Felix in all the pomp and pride of an abecedarian, and at the other end thereof sat the usher or assistant, endeavouring to ape the importance of his imitable master ; sometimes I was called to the unenviable post of usher, which was looked upon by many a youthful aspirant as a place of trust and distinction. During the period of my official labours, a portion of the thatch and roof gave way one night in a storm, which rendered my berth not the most comfortable one in the world ; I remained for some time, as well as my schoolfellows, exposed to the chilling blast which blew through the breach thus occasioned, and all the eloquence we could muster had not the desired effect in prevailing upon Felix to repair it, who used to allege among various reasons for non-compliance, that since the accident happened we had not been so much annoyed with smoke as formerly, that it served as an aperture to emit that obnoxious fluid much better than

the chimney, which he pronounced to be a very indifferent one ; all this we could easily perceive was a mere manœuvre to avoid the expense attending its reparation, we determined therefore as our only alternative, to wait upon him in a body and represent the case, and insist upon having the necessary repairs done. On this occasion I was selected as chief, and having arranged our plans, about thirty boys proceeded in a body to carry them into effect ; Felix having been previously apprised of our intention was prepared for our reception. It now became my duty to open the proceedings of the day, and whilst in the act of doing so, a cold perspiration ran all over me, which prevented me for a time from proceeding ; all eyes were for a moment directed towards me, and I could easily perceive by the long and sorrowful countenances of some of my schoolfellows that they anticipated discomfiture through the incapacity of their leader ; however I suddenly rallied, and recollecting the disgrace that would fall on me in case of failure, I screwed up all the courage and energy I could bring to my assistance and addressed O'Shaughnessy thus :—

“ We are assembled here to-day, Sir, to call your attention to a subject which has engaged our minds for some time past respecting yonder breach (at the same time pointing my finger at it) which it is our most anxious wish to have repaired, we have individually applied to you for

the purpose of having this done, but owing to some misunderstanding, to use no harsher word, it has not been attended to; we therefore now candidly declare, that unless the breach be repaired not one of us will ever discharge the duties incidental to the office of usher, nay, more, it will inevitably, if not speedily attended to lead to consequences which it is not necessary now to reveal; indeed it should have been attended to long ere this by yourself voluntarily, and without any interference on our parts, and we desire to know immediately your determination, by which our future proceedings will be governed."

This address I delivered in a very grave and impressive manner, and with so much genuine eloquence that it drew forth loud applause from my schoolfellows. Felix remained during the delivery of the oration a silent spectator of what was passing around him, but the moment it was concluded he burst into a violent paroxysm of rage, and rising from his seat exclaimed, "by the Hollee Shaint Pathric, things have come to a pretty pass to think that I, myself, Mr. Felix O' Shaughnessy, who have been in company with the first men in the land, should be dictated to, what I am and what I am not to do, by a set of green goslings too; blood and 'ounds, it is really too bad when you reflect upon it; I shall recollect you all for this, and particularly you Mr. Fagg, who stand foremost in the cabal against

me, therefore quit my sight, or by all the crosses in twenty-one yards of check I will flay every one of you alive." At the same time flourishing his birch right and left, he compelled us to scamper off in such haste that we trampled over one another in endeavouring to escape.

Mortified by this defeat, but by no means subdued in courage nor shaken in resolution, both of which we determined once more to put to the test, and convince our inflexible opponent that we were not such ragged and contemptible urchins as he imagined. Felix being in the habit, as before observed, of previously announcing to the boy at whose parents' house he intended to spend the ensuing week, it was agreed that when the time arrived that he was to pay me a visit I should give him a plump denial, and that all the others were to imitate my example; accordingly, at the proper time, he noticed it to me in the usual manner, by remarking that he should spend the ensuing week with Mike Fagg ; to this invitation I replied in a decided tone that he could not, without assigning any particular reason for my refusal. "Well then," said he, calling another boy named Jack Gallivan, "I will go with you, Jack, next week." "In troth you won't," cried Jack, "for there is no room for interlopers." "What do you mean by interlopers?" exclaimed O'Shaughnessy. "I mean what I say," retorted the other. "O, very well," responded the master. Then bidding another boy

approach, "Corney Harburt," said Felix, "I will go with you next week, Mike Fagg and Jack Gallivan having refused." "Upon my shoul and salivation," cries Corney, "you can't be hafter doing any thing of the sort, unless you are satisfied to sleep in some straw in the back house." "Sleep in some straw in the back house," repeated Felix, "Curse you, you unmannery, beggarly brat, do you think I am an old hog to sleep on your litter of straw?" "Wid a faith, I can't tell whether you be or not," remarked Corney, very drily, at the same time giving a shrug or two of the shoulder. "Be off with you, you vulgar numskull," ejaculated O'Shaughnessy, applying the birch so smartly to poor Corney's bare legs that he made him roar most hideously; at the same time threatening that similar chastisement was in reserve for all those who took any part in the conspiracy which he alleged had been formed against him.

We were by no means intimidated by the threats of Felix, whose stingy and parsimonious habits we had no doubt would very soon compel him to change his tone and temper; in this conjecture we were not mistaken, for being left to his own resources to meet his daily necessities, which he found more expensive than he at first had any idea of, in a few days afterwards he summoned us to his presence and signified his intention to comply with our request, and directed the breach to be repaired with all possi-

ble expedition, at the same time expressing a hope that all differences respecting it should be for ever forgotten.

Our opportunity will not be wondered at when the reader is informed that it is usual in several of the schools in Ireland, at least in such schools as that kept by O'Shaughnessy, during the inclement season of the year to compel the school boys to contribute equally to the common stock of turf sufficient to keep up a fire during the day. Some of my schoolfellows might be seen trudging to school barefooted, with a couple of sods of turf under their arm; others with only one sod nearly the size of themselves, a pennyworth or two of paper, an old shattered spelling-book that perhaps had been half a century in the family, and a slate in an equally shattered condition.

We were allowed to go to the fire in our turn, but those who had neglected to contribute to the common stock of fuel were never suffered to approach; O'Shaughnessy used to call over the names of those delinquents who had set established rules at defiance, and would commence in the following singular and amusing manner:—"Jack Doherty, Bill Horgan, and Tim Casey, stand forward; you have all forgotten to bring your quantum of turf this week, how is this, and what have you to say for yourselves to this accusation?" Jack Doherty would allege as an excuse that he had forgotten it, but that he would bring a double quantity next week; Bill

Horgan would state as a reason that there was none at home till it was fetched from the bog; while Tim Casey's defence was that the old grey mare had got the staggers and could not be harnessed. As soon as Felix had heard these several reasons assigned for non-compliance with his injunctions, he invariably dismissed them with this pithy remark, "If you do not mind what I say and bring your turf regularly I will send you all to Halifax, you spalpeens."

From what I have already related respecting my master, it will be readily inferred that I made but very little progress in my scholastic acquirements; this was partly to be attributed to my own repugnance to school, and partly to the scorn and contempt in which I held my preceptor, whose incapacity to convey instruction was too obvious to doubt; and I did not, when an opportunity presented itself, fail to represent him as such, more particularly to my parents, whom I teased and worried with complaints; but they being aware of my aversion to school as well as to the master, imagined that I trumped up half of them myself with the view of being removed altogether, and therefore paid little or no attention to my representations. In the interim, ever since the breach affair which I have before related, the breach between me and Felix every day grew wider and wider, for he had not, although he was first to enjoin forgetfulness, forgotten the part which I took in that transaction. His spleen

or resentment became manifest almost daily, by the severe chastisement I had to endure for the most trifling and insignificant things ; I however disarmed my vengeance for a while, not doubting that one day or other I should take ample satisfaction upon my inexorable castigator. I left home in the morning with an apparent intention of going to school, but, instead of going there, I perambulated for several days about the country, in company with another schoolfellow whose habits and inclinations were similar to my own.

Felix having sent one day to know the cause of my absence from school, my father was quite surprised to learn that I had not been there for some days previously. It was therefore determined that I should be watched, and the place of my retreat was soon discovered, a number of boys were accordingly dispatched to capture me; perceiving their approach, I prepared to give them as warm a reception as possible, and accordingly collected together a heap of stones sufficient for a donkey to carry; scarcely had I completed this task when my schoolfellows came in the direction where I stood, which was near a broad ditch ; as soon as they had approached within twelve or fifteen yards of me, I bawled out as loud as I could that the very first person that attempted to seize me, I would knock him down; this threat only met with laughter and ridicule from them, they attempted to close in

upon me, and after discharging a volley or two of stones, I was captured; not, however, before I had committed dreadful havoc among them; one I threw into a furze bush, the thorns of which made him roar out lustily; another's coat I ripped up to the collar; while a third lay floundering in a pool of water. I was, however, carried off the field, two supporting my head, two holding each arm, while two more took each leg, and in this manner I was conveyed some distance amidst the scoffs and jeers of my companions, which aroused my indignation to such a pitch that becoming furious, I lashed and felled my supporters to the earth. To one I gave a black eye, to another a broken nose, while a third was to be seen with a tooth in his hand, deplored with tears in his eyes its loss, and two or three lay sprawling over one another. As soon as I found myself disengaged I sounded a retreat, but after giving chase a short distance I was retaken, and my schoolfellows declared they would be revenged upon me for the injuries I had inflicted upon them. This declaration they fulfilled, and having procured some rope with which they tied my hands as well as my legs I was carried off to the pedagogue, who no sooner beheld me than he set up a hearty laugh at my expense. As soon as order was in some measure restored, the boys whom I had so roughly handled were called upon, one after another, to detail their respective grievances, the

recital of which excited a good deal of merriment in the school; as soon as it had in some degree subsided, O'Shaughnessy assured them that they should one and all have ample satisfaction for the injuries they had received, and he was as good as his word. I was ordered immediately to be strapped to the back of a boy named Murphy, whose muscular frame was well calculated to sustain its burthen, and the cat-o'nine-tails being smartly applied to my bare posteriors I screamed and roared aloud for mercy; but the inhuman castigator was deaf to all my entreaties, until he had, as he imagined, sufficiently punished me. I was then ordered to be let down, but ere I was quite disengaged I aimed a kick at the face of Felix, which was so well directed that it shivered to pieces his spectacles, which he very much prized as being a family relic: this circumstance caused such a roar of laughter among the boys, that O'Shaughnessy, stamping with rage, ordered me to be put up for a second flogging, and, were I to live to the age of Methuselah, the punishment which I then received would not be erased from my memory, nor the detestation I conceived for the tyrant who had inflicted it.

As soon as the blood began to flow I was ordered to be let down; this was no sooner done than I seized a large ruler, which happened to be near at hand, and coming behind O'Shaughnessy, with one blow I felled him to the ground. I then hastily retreated, hitching up my small-clothes

with my hands, and ran home, where I arrived quite out of breath, followed by nearly all my schoolfellows. My parents on seeing me accompanied by so formidable an array, suspected at once from my terrified looks and the disordered state of my dress, that I had got into a scrape; my strange appearance was, indeed, sufficient to excite their mirth, which, however, I very soon checked by exhibiting my lacerated back; at the sight of which they seemed quite horror-struck. Having thus gained a point, I took care to improve upon it, and began to detail the treatment I had experienced at the hands of my master, which I did not fail to exaggerate, and concluded with a solemn declaration that I would be revenged upon the tyrant. "No, boy," exclaimed my father, "revenge belongs not to you but to me, and presently I shall see if I cannot make this abecedarian repent his cruel treatment of you." Scarcely had he uttered these words when O'Shaughnessy made his appearance, puffing and blowing from exhaustion; as soon as he had recovered sufficient breath to recount his grievances, he began to expatiate on the enormity of my conduct, denouncing it as bad beyond the hope of amendment; he dwelt particularly on the loss of his spectacles, which he alleged had been left him by his father with a request that they should be preserved in the family; he then recounted the injuries which divers of my schoolfellows had sustained at my hands, and concluded

his harangue by exhibiting a wound which I had inflicted just above his right eye-brow by a blow of the ruler, as a confirmation of the truth of his assertions. "Well, Mr. O'Shaughnessy," replied my father, "I have heard patiently all that you have had to say, and though my son is a mischievous boy and deserves chastisement, yet all that you have stated against him would not warrant you to treat any man's child in the way you have treated mine, and I must candidly tell you that I think you have richly deserved the summary vengeance which he has taken upon you."

"Recollect," exclaimed the disappointed schoolmaster, "Mr. Fagg, that I am a man of education and larning, and as such ought to be treated wid greater respect." "D—n you and your education and larning, as you call it," retorted my father, and without further parley he seized him by the collar of his antique coat, and pushed him with such force that he tumbled head foremost into a heap of mud that had accumulated on the side of the road ; he was, however, extricated from this unpleasant dilemma by the timely assistance of some of his pupils, who had followed us to witness the result of our disagreement. The pitiful figure which Felix cut when picked up, can be better imagined than described ; never did a warrior exult more on having gained an important victory, than I did on beholding my greatest foe prostrate in the mire ; this satisfaction was still further increased by the shouts which my school-

fellows set up on beholding this paragon of learning in such a woeful plight. He was, however, assisted to one of the adjoining houses, whence, after availing himself of the aid of a brush and a little soap and water, he returned to the school, followed by a number of his scholars, vowing vengeance all the way against my parent.

The next day my father had to appear before a magistrate on a charge, as the warrant expressed it, of bloodshed and battery committed by him on the person of Mr. Felix O'Shaughnessy.

The case having been called on, O'Shaughnessy after making a most reverential bow to his worship, and giving his perriwig a few extraordinary twists or turns, taking a pinch or two of Lundyfoot's celebrated snuff with great solemnity, and secreting in some cavern in his mouth a large plug of tobacco which he constantly chewed, opened the case after two or three hemis and hahs, by recapitulating all that I have just detailed, not failing to exaggerate every circumstance. My father having been called upon for his defence, admitted that I was an artful mischievous boy, and most likely guilty of all that had been laid to my charge, but, said he, however bad my son's conduct might have been, it would not warrant O'Shaughnessy to have punished him as he has done; shewing at the same time my back to his worship, who no sooner perceived it than he at once dismissed the case, cau-

tioning O'Shaughnessy to be more careful how he exercised the cat-o'nine-tails in future.

The pride and vanity of this illiterate knight of the birch having been thus humbled, he had to transfer himself and his academy to a more remote part of the country, where no doubt he hoped to meet with less refractory pupils.

Let not my readers for a moment imagine that the schoolmasters of Ireland are an ignorant body of men, because I have attempted to describe Felix O'Shaughnessy in rather a ludicrous light ; on the contrary, contrasting them generally with the schoolmasters of any other country, in point of learning and general information, I have no doubt of a favorable issue.

CHAPTER III.

HAVING acquired some notoriety in consequence of the altercation with O'Shaughnessy, I was looked upon by the most considerable people of the town as a lad of no ordinary genius, and had the satisfaction to find myself in some degree of favour with the ladies, particularly with a grocer's daughter named Selina Sweet ; we met frequently, as well by chance as by assignation, and I did not omit when an opportunity offered, to inspire her with the tender flame, and to imprint divers kisses on her ruddy cheeks, which

were a true picture of health ; though I had not at this time given up my boyish pursuits altogether.

One day, whilst playing with some of my companions, I received a gentle tap on the back from an unknown hand ; I turned round to ascertain who it could have been, and was agreeably surprised to perceive Miss Sweet, who formally invited me to bear her company during the following evening, as the family were about going some distance from home and would not return till late at night. This kind invitation I readily embraced, and promised to be with her at the time fixed upon. As soon as she had disappeared, I was bantered and jeered so much by my playfellows, that I quitted their company, not a little incensed at their rude and unmannerly behaviour. Never did I spend a more restless night than that preceding the assignation ; a thousand idle and chimerical ideas bewildered my brain respecting Selina, which kept me awake till dawn of morning, when falling into a kind of reverie I dreamed that I had encircled her in my arms, and whilst imprinting kisses on her cheeks, I imagined she was forcibly torn from my embrace ; while indulging in this visionary delusion I was suddenly awoke by a loud rapping at my door, accompanied with an inquiry whether I intended remaining in bed all day ? I could easily distinguish this to be the voice of my mother, and I replied in the nega-

tive. Hurrying on my clothes I soon quitted the room, after viewing myself in the mirror for some time, with the satisfaction that I had set myself off to the best advantage. Having dispatched my breakfast, I waited with no small degree of anxiety for the appointed time; at length the clock of the adjoining church announced the long-wished-for hour, I bent my steps with all the ardour of a true lover to the domicile of my little charmer, who awaited my arrival with impatience. Our guileless and innocent conversation fully testified the simplicity of our hearts; although Selina was sweet by name as well as by nature, our discourse became more animating and interesting by the havoc which we committed on the figs, raisins, and sugarcandy. The time passed away unheeded and unperceived until it became necessary for me to think of departing; when I arose for that purpose, I could easily perceive by the looks and gestures of my fair companion that she secretly wished it were in her power to prolong my stay; just as I was about taking leave of Selina, whose hand I shook in a very warm and affectionate manner, which was responded to with equal fervency, accompanied with a look so fascinating, that I ventured to imprint a kiss upon her blooming cheek, which brought her blushes thick upon her; I was about repeating the liberty I had taken, when I was unexpectedly interrupted by repeated blows from behind, and turning round,

to see who the intruder could be, I recognized one Molly O'Keefe, the wife of a blacksmith who resided in the neighbourhood, who continued to belabour me with such vigour that I had only a choice of two evils, either to sound a retreat or oppose her *vie et armis*: the latter I preferred doing, but the superior prowess of my opponent very soon prevailed, and I was put to the rout, and made the best of my way home, pursued by my assailant; who, in no very delicate terms, alluded to my design upon the grocer's daughter; at the same time declaring that if my father did not *distain* the evil genius of his son, he would have cause to rue it as long as he lived. This appeal strongly excited the feelings of my father, who, having the recent dispute with O'Shaughnessy still fresh in his recollection, bade me strip, and never shall I forget the severe punishment which I then received for this my first deviation from the paths of rectitude.

It appeared that Molly had entered the shop to purchase some trifling article, and having repeatedly tapped on the counter without effect, proceeded to the parlour which looked into the shop, and placing her eye to the window, discovered me in the manner above described.

This little affair became the subject of much scandal for some time subsequently, and affected Miss Sweet so much that during its continuation she could not be prevailed upon to shew herself in public. To the blacksmith's wife, who was

the cause of this uneasiness, I bore ever after the most deadly hatred, and whenever an opportunity offered, I retaliated.

The unfortunate turn which this my first intrigue took, and the dreadful chastisement which I received in consequence of it, operated so powerfully on my mind that it had the effect of completely cooling the impetuosity of my passion towards the fair sex for a considerable time afterwards.

CHAPTER IV.

O'SHAUGHNESSY's successor was a man of the name of M'Lacuddy, who, though blind of one eye, was the superior of the former in point of learning, as well as in every other qualification. It was reported that he was the illegitimate offspring of a neighbouring squireen, who had been the dictator of the school time out of mind.— M'Lacuddy and his spouse were, I believe unintentionally, the cause of one of those dreadful conflicts which kept that part of the country in a perpetual state of warfare for several years: it arose from a poetical effusion of another schoolmaster, of the name of Scanlan, composed on the occasion of the marriage of M'Lacuddy, who felt so acutely its force, that he called upon the author for an apology or satisfaction, but the latter refusing to administer a balm to his wounded

feelings, a quarrel ensued, which ended in blows being dealt pretty freely on both sides ; the immediate friends of both combatants assembled on the following Sunday, and thus commenced one of those sanguinary conflicts to which the lower orders of the people of Ireland were formerly so much addicted.

It is a circumstance much to be deplored, that there are to be found men so destitute of common sense and common reason as to take part in such disgraceful proceedings, the origin of which they seldom or never take the trouble of inquiring into, but rush headlong into the affray, just as the whim or caprice of the moment stimulates them, quite regardless of their own lives or the lives of those opposed to them, some of whom may chance to be near relatives.

At the time I became the pupil of M'Lacuddy he had been married about eighteen months ; his wife was the daughter of a hosier living in the town, she was above the middle size, with features both meagre and freckled, and by no means so interesting as to induce a man to come to the heroic resolution of putting his life in jeopardy to preserve her honour, much less to shield her from a little harmless raillery : she was however, no doubt undesignedly, the cause of much blood having been shed.

I continued at the school for nearly twelve-months without any thing remarkable happening, except that I made rapid progress in the classics

and was looked upon as one of the best scholars. During this period I had frequent opportunities of seeing and conversing with Mrs. M'Lacuddy, whom I had the good, or rather the ill luck to please, and who repeatedly testified her approbation of the manner in which I had invariably executed her commands. While things wore this favourable aspect, I was one day summoned to the presence of my mistress, who addressed me thus, "Mike, I shall have occasion for your services from time to time to procure me some trifling articles, and if you continue to acquit yourself as you have hitherto done, you may calculate upon my esteem and friendship." To this I nodded my head, as indicative of assent, not being then a very great proficient in the principles of politeness.

As soon as I had quitted her presence, I began to ruminate on what had passed, I pondered over and over again what the deuce she could have meant by "trifling articles," and the esteem and friendship which I might expect in return; but this language appeared to me so indefinite, that the more I endeavoured to unravel its meaning, the more I became perplexed and confused.— However I consoled myself with the hope that ere many days would elapse, I should enter upon the labours incidental to my new calling, when no doubt I should be made acquainted with all the particulars connected therewith.

The next day I was initiated into my duties,

which consisted of running about from one shop to another to procure needles, pins, tapes, and other trifles. In this occupation I continued for some months, daily improving in the good opinion of my mistress, who took especial care to make no allusion to the promised esteem and friendship. Finding neither honour nor emolument appertain to my office, which daily grew more irksome, I resolved to tender my resignation: for this purpose I proceeded one morning to the door of Mrs. M'Lacuddy's bed-room, which was on the same floor as the school-room, and gently tapped; receiving no answer, I repeated the tapping a little louder, but with no better success; I knocked somewhat louder, when I heard a voice, which I could easily distinguish to be that of my schoolmistress, "Who comes there?" To this interrogatory I answered, "It is Mike, Ma'am." Scarcely had I pronounced the words when the door flew open. I hesitated for some time, conceiving it to be highly indecorous to enter a lady's bed-room under such circumstances: Mrs. M'Lacuddy, perceiving my modesty, exclaimed rather peevishly, "Why don't you come in, boy, and not stand there like a simpleton?" This left me no alternative but to comply, and I entered accordingly: she bid me approach near her, which I had no sooner done than she began patting me on the head, repeating the words, "good boy, fine lad;" then clasping my hand firmly in hers, gave me as hearty a

squeeze as ever tar gave an old shipmate, and looking me in the face, in a faltering voice asked me if I was trustworthy. Not knowing what she meant by this question, I requested she would be a little more explicit. In reply, she asked if I could keep a secret; with some confusion I answered in the affirmative; then all of a sudden throwing her hands round my neck, she embraced me so fervently that I was well nigh deprived of the powers of respiration. This strange behaviour, which could not be misunderstood, surprised me a good deal, so much so that I stood motionless, without uttering a single syllable; the thoughts of my last intrigue, and the disagreeable manner in which it terminated, as well as the fear of a discovery, at this instant flashed across my mind, and I was almost darting out of the room, and leaving my mistress to the pangs of disappointment; but, alas! profiting by my inexperience and irresolution, she had already clasped me so closely that all chance of retreating was completely cut off. Whilst I was thus encircled in the arms of my mistress, we were startled by the sudden appearance of one of my schoolfellows, who tumbled head foremost from off a step ladder, upon which he had been standing, into the room; to the great terror and amazement of myself and mistress. No sooner had the intruder recovered himself, than he disappeared in an instant, without deigning to utter a single sentence in the shape of an apology for

the alarm he had thus, no doubt unintentionally, occasioned.

This premature and abrupt intrusion operated so forcibly on the nerves of Mrs. M'Lacuddy that she fainted, and it was some time before I could restore her; having fancied that she saw in the person of the intruder her confiding and unsuspecting spouse. I confess my fears on that head were not much dissimilar to those of my mistress, but I dissembled, and assured her that it was not her husband but a boy named Jenks; this inspired her with so much confidence, that her fears gradually disappeared. Our caresses having by this circumstance been put an end to, it was resolved that I should sift Jenks, and endeavour to ascertain from him if he had seen me and my mistress in the position before described; but when questioned on this point, his answers were apparently so open and candid, that he entirely removed all my doubts and apprehensions; humorously remarking, that having seen me enter the room, he was led by curiosity to listen for a while at the door, but not being able to catch the exact purport of our conversation, he was induced to procure a step ladder, which he placed against the door, and having ascended it, applied his eye to a hole (which had been made for the purpose of enabling the master to have a view of the school, and which used to be closed by a slide, but was incautiously left open on this occasion), and while attempting to

explore the interior of the room, he overbalanced himself, and fell in the manner already detailed.

I lost no time in communicating the result of my inquiries to Mrs. M'Lacuddy, who commend-ed my zeal and discretion in the most flattering terms.

But the felicity of my mistress was destined not to be of long duration, for in a few days after, Jenks let drop some broad hints relative to his discovery, which became the topic of conversa-tion throughout the school. A circumstance known to so many, very soon reached the ears of M'Lacuddy, who, without deigning to investigate the truth or falsehood of the rumour, in a trans-port of rage and jealousy proceeded to avenge the wrongs he supposed I had done him ; and laying aside all restraint commenced belaboring me with more severity, if possible, than his pre-decessor O'Shaughnessy ; I closed in upon him, in the hope of wresting the whip from him, but in this attempt I was foiled, for my antagonist's superior strength prevailed, and I was thrown with tremendous force to the ground ; in my deseent I caught hold of one of the skirts of his coat, which I held so firmly that I rent it asunder, and in the struggle he stumbled over me, to the no small diversion of my schoolfellows, who set up a loud laugh at the novelty of the sight. I got upon my legs before my adversary, and re-solved on turning this circumstance to some ad-vantage ; seizing an old slate that lay on one of

the desks, I hit the prostrate schoolmaster a blow over the right eye that had well nigh closed for ever his only remaining organ of perception : perceiving the blood flow copiously from the wound, I quickly decamped from the school, to which I never returned ; nor did my discomfitted preceptor take any steps, until a considerable period afterwards, to cause me to regret the summary punishment I had inflicted upon him.

These insignificant and unsuccessful amours becoming the subject of general conversation, influenced my parents to such an extent that they resolved on withdrawing me from school altogether; and they began to reflect on the necessity of devising some plan by which my future career in life should be determined.

CHAPTER V.

THE discussion of this topic was commenced by my father observing, that as I had now attained my seventeenth year, it was high time to fix on some trade or profession by which I might support myself, and expressed a desire of learning me his own business ; but this was strongly objected to by mother, who resolutely insisted on my being bred to the same profession as my uncle. Frequent debates arose on this subject, and one day in particular it was discussed with more

than ordinary zeal on both sides ; my mother insisting that as I was a lad of ability and genius, she could not think of demeaning me nor my friends so much as to allow me to embrace the business of a tailor. My father, with equal fervor, maintained the superiority of his trade to the profession of an attorney, whom he designated as "the most poverty-stricken object in existence, when destitute of money and clients."— "Granting what you say to be the case," replied my mother, "the profession of the law is a noble science, and one which has produced some of the greatest men that ever lived." "Truly, you may call them great," he rejoined, "as indeed they are; not in the strict principles of honesty and integrity, but great in mystification and knavery; and how can it be otherwise with men who live on the misfortunes of their fellow men?" These sarcastical remarks, uttered against the dignity of a profession of which my mother was an ardent admirer, she repelled with some warmth, which drew forth my father's ire in return; so that from words they had well nigh proceeded to blows, had not my father quitted her presence, ejaculating, as he disappeared, "Women will have their own way!"

While things continued in this state my father took me one night to the rendezvous, or house of call, where the tailors were in the habit of assembling, in order to afford me an opportunity of judging how far I might feel disposed to become

one of that calling. There was a grand muster on this evening, it being a meeting to regulate and fix the scale of wages: the subject was discussed with great warmth by the two classes of the trade distinguished by the cognomen of *flints* and *dungs*, and was for some time contested with equal obstinacy on both sides, until at length one of the latter class arose, and having made some hasty and intemperate observations on the tyranny and injustice of the former, he was interrupted by repeated calls of "Order!" to which, however, he paid no attention: his disorderly pertinacity so provoked one of the aggrieved party, that he pulled out a bodkin and thrust it through the orator's white trousers, which made him roar most lustily. This was a signal for a general tumult, and in a few minutes quart-pots, candlesticks, and every portable article in the room, were put in requisition and brandished about in all directions; the heroes of the goose and thimble performing prodigies of valour in the shape of black eyes, bloody noses, and broken heads. The action was maintained with uncommon vigour on both sides, and the issue of the conflict appeared doubtful; when, suddenly, a posse of constables made their appearance and put the combatants to the rout, taking several of the ringleaders into custody, who were committed to durance vile for the remainder of the night, and on the following morning had to undergo the ordeal of an examination before the

justice, when they were discharged upon payment of the usual fines inflicted on drunken and disorderly characters.

Just before the entrance of the constables my father was endeavoring to effect a reconciliation between some of the contending parties, and had taken out his snuff-box as an auxiliar, when he received a tremendous blow across the shoulders that levelled him to the ground, and at the same time drove the box with such force from his hand against my nasal organ that it caused the blood to stream profusely, and so stunned me for the moment that I staggered and fell headlong over the prostrate body of my unfortunate sire.

As soon as we had somewhat recovered from this mishap, we quitted the scene of confusion and bloodshed and made the best of our way home, where our arrival was looked for with impatience. We had scarcely entered the house when my mother, looking her spouse full in the face, inquired, with some astonishment, whether he belonged to the quick or the dead; my father replied, rather peevishly, that he never answered impertinent questions: then, turning to me, she remarked that my nose had considerably exceeded its ordinary size, and desired to know the cause; I candidly related every particular connected with the recent skirmish, at which, as I proceeded, I could perceive my parent bite her nether lip, the better to preserve her gravity, and as I detailed each ludicrous circumstance she

seemed to glow with inward satisfaction ; imagining, no doubt, that I had seen sufficient to convince me of the utter insignificance of tailors in general, and that, consequently, I could not entertain the least desire to become a member of that body. When she had heard me to the end, she expressed a hope that from what I had seen of the trade I was satisfied they were a silly-pated, contemptible set of fellows. In the justness of this remark I coincided, qualifying it, however, by observing that there were in all trades and professions some disreputable characters : "Ay," she replied, "so there are, I grant you, but in none so numerous as in the tailoring tribe, who are held in universal contempt and scorn ; indeed," added my loquacious mother, "it was considered at the time that I married your father, the eighth wonder of the world." After she had thus given vent to her feelings, we parted and retired to rest ; my mother quite delighted in believing that I had imbibed her notions, in direct opposition to those of my father.

Although I had not hitherto bestowed a moment's consideration upon what was to be my future occupation, yet I confess that my mother's prepossessions against that class to which she had such an antipathy, biassed my choice, or I verily believe that I should have been at this day a member of that illustrious fraternity.

My father finding it perfectly useless to hold out any longer, in opposition to the oft-repeated

opinions of my mother, reluctantly acceded to her wishes, and thus it was mutually agreed that I should become a Limb of the Law.

The following day my mother waited on her brother, and expressed her earnest wish that he would receive me into his office; this he objected to, on the ground of my irregular and immoral habits. His objection was combatted with some degree of success by my mother, who represented my irregularities as mere follies incidental to youth, and consequently that they ought not to be a bar to her son's advancement in life. My uncle, however, persisted in declining to admit me at the present time, but promised at the end of three months, should I reform my conduct, to give me a trial, in order that he might have an opportunity of judging how far his opinion of my abilities coincided with that of his sister. Upon this understanding my mother returned home, quite elated that she had so far succeeded in the object of her mission.

CHAPTER VI.

Nor having augmented the catalogue of my indiscretions within the time stipulated, I was at the termination of that period duly installed into the office of my uncle; who though not possessed of the legal knowledge of a Blackstone, yet

maintained unimpaired the dignity of his name by the redundancy of *Cheek* which he invariably gave his clients. During the first year of my induction I made but very little progress in the profession of the Law, which I then conceived to be very dry and intricate; this period was chiefly occupied in copying the incidental business of the office, such as Writs, Decrees, Declarations, and various other legal documents, which keep from time to time numbers of his Majesty's lieges in *terrorem*; and what struck me as singular, was, that a great number of these official instruments bore the signatures of John Doe and Richard Roe. Who these men were, or what was the nature of their calling, I could not then, nor did I for a considerable time subsequently, discover; sometimes I imagined they were the two chief judges of the court, at other times I degenerated and transformed them into two criers, but had I considered until doomsday, I do not believe I should have hit upon the real nature of their official labours.

Mr. Cheek one day entered the office, apparently in a very great bustle, and handing to me a *Testatum Capias*, bade me read it, in order that he might examine a copy thereof, with the original. I proceeded tolerably well until I came to that part which ran thus, "It is testified in our Court that the Defendant lurks and wanders up and down in your County;" this strange and inexplicit language disturbed my gravity to such

a degree, that I burst out into a hearty laugh, which I could not restrain, although I made many ineffectual efforts to do so. This unmannerly and unofficial behaviour so exasperated my uncle, that snatching the writ out of my hand, at the same time remarking, that he wanted no buffoonery in his office, he handed it to his clerk, with whom he completed the examination. He had no sooner done this, than he desired to know the cause of my being so very facetious. I candidly informed him, that I thought it somewhat singular that the defendant should be lurking and wandering up and down the Sheriffs' county, without any sufficient reason being assigned therefore. "Why," said he, "is it not a good reason, to avoid being arrested?" "Yes," I rejoined, "that is certainly a good cause, but he will not escape being taken if he "lurks and wanders up and down." "Pray," observed my uncle, "what words would you substitute in their place?" After some hesitation I told him that I should prefer saying, "that he is to be found, and that he secrets himself." "Oh," he retorted sarcastically, "what a pity it is that you had not been the law maker, as no doubt we should have had a judicious and wholesome code of laws." This said, he quitted the chambers, having, as he imagined, sufficiently mortified me by the last remark, for my assurance in attempting to point out defects.

My uncle did not allow me much time for re-

flection when he reappeared, and without uttering a syllable, took up a sheet of paper which he handed to me, desiring me to write what he should dictate. I got on very smoothly until I came to a certain part where I had occasion to write the words *Heir at Law*, which I wrote *Ear at Law*, he had no sooner read this novel mode of spelling "heir," than he burst into an inimoderate fit of laughter. As soon as he had regained his gravity, he desired to know whether I could not yet spell the simple word "heir?" I answered that I knew of no other than the one I had adopted. "Oh," responded Mr. Cheek, "you are indeed a very clever fellow to attempt to criticise forms that have been held in veneration from time immemorial, and cannot yet spell correctly; your mother," he continued, "is a very silly woman for not allowing your father to bring you up to his own trade, as I am quite sure your capacity is better adapted to the business of a tailor, than to the profession of a lawyer."

These animadversions of my uncle, which were rather ill-timed, did not in the least make me relax in my efforts to become acquainted with the quibbles and subtleties of the law, which I had no doubt I should eventually surmount by perseverance and attention.

My next official act was to copy an ejectment, which is a species of legal process, instituted for the recovery back from bad and refractory tenants possession of premises let or demised to

them ; as I proceeded I came to that part which contains a description of the premises ; and although the premises, for the recovery of which the ejectment is brought, may consist of an acre or two of land, with a few dilapidated houses thereon, they are not unfrequently set out under the following spacious and extensive description : "One hundred houses, one hundred outhouses, one hundred barns, one hundred stables, one hundred acres of meadow land, one hundred acres of pasture land, and one hundred acres of other land." Little did I then imagine that all these were visionary hundreds : as I drew towards the conclusion, here again were to be seen the formidable pair, John Doe and Richard Roe ; I muttered to myself over and over again, the deuce take these fellows, what a troublesome pair they are, let me take up what legal instrument or official document I may, they are sure to stare me in the face. But what struck me as still more extraordinary, was, that these two, whom I imagined to be the two chief judges, and as such preservers of the peace, were here the violators thereof ; when I came to that part where John Doe comes in one day and thrusts out his cousin Richard, who comes in his turn the day after, with swords, sticks, staves and bludgeons, and takes vengeance upon poor Jack ! when I had copied this, I felt quite perplexed and confounded, and said to myself, if these men are judges as I suppose them to be, they have had recourse

to a very curious mode of upholding the laws: but when I maturely reflected that it was preposterous to suppose so, I metamorphosed them into the less enviable post of being the criers of the court: but here again another insuperable difficulty apparently presented itself, for even if they were so, it somewhat puzzled me when I considered that they too were bound to preserve the peace as well as the judges. In this dilemma I wound up my conjectures by thinking that whether viewed in the capacity of judges or criers, or any other capacity, they had resorted to a very novel expedient of deciding their differences, when they called in the aid of such formidable weapons.

In this state of doubt and perplexity I applied to my fellow clerk to know if he could give me any information respecting the origin of these two great personages, but his skill in legal lore was pretty nearly on a par with my own. Finding Mr. Cheek one day more communicative than usual, I ventured to ask him who and what these men, designated as John Doe and Richard Roe, were, who cut such a prominent figure in all law proceedings. "Indeed," he replied laconically, "I am sorry Mike, I cannot trace their origin for you, but they are coeval with the law itself." "Coeval with the law itself," I repeated over and over again, but all to no purpose; this brief definition, the more I endeavoured to unravel and elucidate its meaning, bewildered

and confused me; but when I reflected that it was inconsistent with common sense, to suppose they were coeval with the law itself, for if they were, they must have been in existence for some centuries, and that very few persons live beyond one, I became more and more puzzled; however I wound up all my surmises by setting them down as being perhaps made the depositaries of the law, and permitted, by some miraculous interposition, to elucidate and expound its various intricacies and ramifications.

Little did I then imagine that these distinguished individuals, who haunted my imagination for so long a period, were two men in the moon, who had no existence in reality; and I believe I may venture to assert, without fear of contradiction, that there are to this day some thousands equally ignorant as I was then, of the nature of their judicial avocations. As illustrative of the truth of this remark, I shall here relate an anecdote which is told of a right reverend prelate, who combined the clerical and judicial character in his person, (a practice quite common now-a-days) and who, on hearing the names of John Doe and Richard Roe called over repeatedly by the crier of the court, in the discharge of his official duties, exclaimed, "Who are these men, let them be brought before me, and I shall commit them for disturbing the proceedings of the court, they are a troublesome litigious pair of fellows, and deserve to be severely punished."

This judicial threat of summary punishment against two imaginary beings, caused some merriment at his lordship's expense ; who, on being made acquainted with their real character, seemed quite astonished, and not a little mortified at his own deficiency in legal jargon.

I shall close this cursory view of legal forms by relating another anecdote which is told of a farmer, who received some ejectments for the purpose of having them served upon his tenant, and on perusing one of them observing the premises (which happened to be two or three old houses in rather a ruinous state) set forth in the extensive manner above described, fancied his lawyer had found out what is usually termed a "flaw," which would have the effect of adding considerably to his territory; and his joy was such as generally precedes an unexpected acquisition of property, and which he did not fail to communicate to his friends and neighbours ; but his surprise and indignation was in an inverse ratio when he discovered that

"What he in his imagination saw,
"Was a mere fiction in the law."

The principal cause of this anomaly it seems is, that the plaintiff, not being bound by law to declare for the exact quantity of land which he seeks to recover, may claim any indeterminate quantity he thinks proper, but will only recover according to the extent of what he proves, and if he proves more than he has declared for, he

will not be entitled to recover; but this never happens, nor even a fiftieth part of what is set forth in the declaration in ejectment.

Such are a sample of those absurd forms that have been so profoundly eulogized and extolled by some high legal authorities; whether justly or not, I shall leave the reader to determine.

The future drudges in the legal profession will not have to undergo the same perplexity, as the judges have recently carried reform so far as to order that the names of John Doe and Richard Roe shall in future in all personal actions be discontinued.

Thus terminated in the plenitude of their power and glory, the legal career of these two ancient and venerable functionaries, who from time immemorial had usurped supreme dominion in fomenting disputes and perpetuating quarrels between divers of his Majesty's lieges; notwithstanding their patriarchal age, and the repeated attacks to which they had been subjected from legal reformers, they maintained unimpaired up to their last moments, possession of those great and extraordinary faculties that had bewildered and perplexed some of the greatest men that ever lived. In fine, their great and transcendant abilities in the mystic art will live in the page of history, and their memories will be for ever embalmed in the hearts of all true lovers of litigation.

CHAPTER VII.

My uncle's judicial duties necessarily called him abroad very frequently, and during his occasional absence myself and fellow clerk were in the habit of discussing the absurdity of some of the forms sanctioned by law, which now became a favourite topic with me. During our controversy one day, a man entered the office in breathless haste, and in broken accents announced the sad intelligence that Mr. Cheek had dropped down in the street in a fit of apoplexy. The truth of this awful tale was soon confirmed by our beholding his lifeless corpse borne into the house on the shoulders of some men. This melancholy event filled me with inexpressible grief and despair, in being thus suddenly bereft of the only real friend I had in the world, and in whom all my future hopes and prospects in life were centred; but its poignancy was in some measure mitigated by a hope that he had made some provision for me by his will. The distressing intelligence was soon conveyed to the friends and relatives of the deceased who resided in the neighbourhood, who immediately flocked thither and, after giving vent to the outpourings of grief, gave orders that all his papers should be sealed up and a day fixed for reading the will, which was found amongst his papers.

In the interim I was dispatched to communicate the sad news to my brothers-in-law O'Leary and Farrell; I found the latter from home on my arrival, he having been ordered to attend the manœuvres of some smugglers in a distant part of the country. After stopping that night at the house of O'Leary, we set out together next morning on horseback, for the purpose of attending the funeral, and expected to reach the end of our journey before the close of the day; the morning was bright and clear, not a cloud was visible, every thing seemed to indicate a fine day; as we proceeded on our journey the horse which I rode having lost one of its shoes, grew so lame that it was unable to proceed but at a very slow pace. As it drew towards night we were overtaken by a thunder-storm, accompanied by awfully vivid flashes of lightning, and followed by incessant rain; at this juncture we approached a forest, well known in those parts as Glanflesk, and generally avoided after nightfall by travellers, from being supposed to be the rendezvous of a banditti, who were the terror of the neighbourhood for miles around. Having dismounted, we drew up our horses and took shelter in the forest, in the hope that the storm would soon subside; but scarcely had we taken up this position, when we were startled by something rustling among the trees, as if caused by the motions of a human being; we listened for some time in breathless anxiety, but not hearing anything more, we be-

gan to conclude our alarm was imaginary ; in this conclusion, however, we were very soon undeceived by hearing footsteps approach, and immediately after we beheld four men with their faces blackened, each carrying a blunderbuss, which rested carelessly on the arm, and a case of pistols girded to the waist by a leathern belt. As soon as they perceived us, whose presence startled them not a little, one of them bawled out in a terrific voice, "Who comes there ?" To this interrogatory I waited for O'Leary to return an answer, but that not being quickly given, the same voice repeated the question again in such a determined tone, that I instantly replied, "Friends." "It is well," exclaimed the man of colour, "you have said so, or by he that made saucepans, I would have scattered both your brains to the winds." So saying he drew near, and seeing my companion stretched on the ground, assisted me in lifting him up : poor O'Leary's courage having oozed out at the sight of this formidable array. Scarcely had O'Leary got upon his legs, than one of the party, who appeared to be the chief, inquired from whence we came and how far we were bound; on being satisfied on these points he invited us both to partake of the rights of hospitality until the storm should subside.

This invitation we would gladly have dispensed with, but circumstanced as we were, having no choice, we placed ourselves under their guid-

ance and set out for their habitation. On the way thither, silence was strictly observed, unless when broken in upon by some murmurs which occasionally escaped from some of the gang : at length we were relieved from our suspense, by one of them informing us that we had now arrived at their dwelling ; this news somewhat rallied our depressed spirits, and we anxiously looked about for something resembling a habitation, but in vain, not anything appeared that denoted or had the least appearance of a place of residence. During this anxiety, one of them lifted up a large flag, resembling a head-stone, cut out so ingeniously from the lower extremity of a huge rock as to set at defiance the most minute scrutiny. The upper part of the stone was overhung by a quantity of ivy, and was approached by myself and companion without being perceived. The removal of the stone presented to our bewildered senses a subterranean passage, which they entered and bade us follow them ; this we hesitated to do, but on their reiterating their promise of shelter and protection, and all chance of escape being completely cut off, we entered ; not, however, without considerable doubts as to its performance. We parted with our horses under a similar assurance that they should be restored to us when ready to pursue our journey ; upon this guarantee our fears became considerably abated. We had scarcely been seated ere the marauders retired to digest

themselves of the large black whiskers which they generally wore in their nocturnal perambulations, the better to disguise their persons ; the captain, who was above the middle stature, and whose countenance was open, manly, and commanding, had not long been absent, before he returned and inquired if we felt disposed to partake of any refreshment ; and on being answered in the affirmative, he instantly gave orders that supper should be served up with all possible despatch. During the preparation, I attentively surveyed the interior of the cave, and never was there a place better adapted than it was, whether viewed in a natural or artificial light, for the purpose of concealment. The immense cavern was cut out of the solid rock in a most ingenious manner, the floor was earthen, and branched off into different apartments, divided by a partition of boards. On a deal table at the upper end lay large pieces of beef, together with a number of fowls, some of which were shorn of their feathers by one of the banditti, who acted in the capacity of cook, and soon served up, together with a piece of pork and abundance of vegetables, for our supper, to which each individual did ample justice.

After our repast, we were asked our names ; poor O'Leary did not know what answer to return, but looking me full in the face, I could easily divine that he silently appealed to me for one ; I therefore, affecting a little sang froid,

gave the name of M'Carthy, a gentleman of that name of liberal principles and of great benevolence being at that time resident in the neighbourhood. "What!" said they, almost in the same breath, "are you any relation to the good man of that name who resides about a dozen miles off?" I answered in the affirmative. "Well then," exclaimed the chief, "thrice welcome to our humble habitation, it gives us sincere pleasure to have it in our power to entertain the relatives of that truly excellent man, whose signal services on behalf of his oppressed country, demand the heart-felt thanks and gratitude of its inhabitants: we hope," continued the chief, "that both your sentiments coincide with those of your relative, and to which we are no strangers, and that you both are equally determined enemies of all obnoxious imposts, particularly of that infernal system by which the religion of the few is maintained at the expense of the many. The monstrosity," said he, "of making one man pay for the religion of another can only be equalled by its villainy and injustice, for what can be more repugnant to natural justice than for men to be compelled to take away from their families a considerable portion of the fruit of their hard labour and give it to men for preaching a doctrine in which they do not believe." I assured the captain that my sentiments were in accordance with those he had expressed, and if they did not exceed, they did not fall short one

jot of those entertained by my kinsman, of whom they spoke in such flattering terms ; and I believed I might venture to say as much for my friend. O'Leary signified his assent by a nod of the head ; after a pause of a minute or two the chief observed that he would soon put our principles to the test ; scarcely had he said so, than filling up a goblet of whiskey punch and desiring us to follow his example, he gave the following toast, which he desired should not be minced on pain of incurring his most serious displeasure,

“The minister in a bush, the bush in hell, the chimney stopped, the door locked, and the key in the croppey's pocket.”

This toast, as may be supposed, was drank in an overflowing bumper and with much enthusiasm. The next toast was given by the lieutenant, whose name was Rufus M'Dermott, and whose ferocious countenance well accorded with his station ; who filling up his goblet and unsheathing his poignard, which he held extended at arm's length, his eyes darting forth piercing looks towards myself and companion, as if to discover the secrets of our hearts, gave

“ May the enemies of old Ireland be executed, decapitated, and quartered, and after that put into the great gun of Athlone, and blown against the walls of damnation.”

These toasts or sentiments, appalling as they were, and which were followed by others equally dreadful, almost caused my blood to stagnate, I

drank however in an overflowing bumper with apparent earnestness and satisfaction; which mightily prepossessed the captain and his comrades in my favour and caused me at once to be pronounced a man after their own heart.

After these toasts had been given, the chief suggested that we should each sing a song in our turn, this proposition was acceded to by all. The first songs were *Garryowen na Gloria* and *Kate Carney*, which were sung with intense feeling. It now came to my turn, (poor O'Leary, whose vocal powers were not of the first order at any time, was not, as may be supposed, in a singing humour) and notwithstanding that I endeavoured to dissipate the cause of my melancholy mission, it was some time before I could be prevailed upon to gratify their desire, for had my feelings been consulted, I should be far from merry making on such an occasion; however, after considerable reluctance, the better to maintain the name and character I had assumed, I yielded, and sang, vanity apart, with a good deal of taste and judgment, the pathetic ballad well known as the *Exile of Erin*; as I drew towards the concluding part which runs thus,

“ Where now is my cabin so fast by the wild wood,
 Sisters and sire did weep for its fall,
 Where is my mother that looked on my childhood,
 And where is the bosom friend dearer than all.”

they felt so sensibly affected by this stanza, that the tears might be seen trickling down the cheeks

of these apparently good natured but misguided men. My finale was hailed with unequivocal marks of approbation, and bumpers were filled to our better acquaintance. After the tumult with which the conclusion of my song had been hailed had in some degree subsided, the chief, addressing myself and companion, said "I should suppose that you are both at a loss to conjecture what could have induced myself and comrades to meet together in such a lonely spot." I candidly confessed that he rightly anticipated, and that I should very much like to know the cause. "Well then," he continued, "your desire shall be gratified, and you shall hear from my own lips a short account of the principal events of my life; and I doubt not but that my companions, if time will permit, will also gratify your curiosity." He then commenced thus:—

"My name is Terence O'Brien, I am descended from an ancient and respectable family, who for nearly a century resided in the town of Bandon, in the county of Cork, so justly famed for the bigotry and religious prejudices of the inhabitants; and which was carried to such an extent that in former days might be seen on the gate at the entrance of the town this memorable inscription, which fully exhibited the intolerant sentiments of the inhabitants :

"A Turk, a Jew, or an Atheist,
Is welcome here—but no Papist.

"This illiberal and anti-christian denuncia-

tion levelled at a particular denomination, was blazoned forth in very conspicuous letters, and remained so for a considerable period ; until an itinerant poor scholar chancing to espy them, imagining they would admit of some improvement, took up his pencil and inscribed underneath these words :

“ Whoever wrote this he wrote it well,
For the same is written on the gates of hell.

“ But to proceed with my story : My only inheritance consisted of a small farm left me by my father, who had expended the best portion of his vigour and substance in improving it. Some time previous to his death he waited upon his landlord, and represented to him that as he had not, according to the course of nature, long to live, and as he had been for many years an industrious and improving tenant, he confidently hoped that if he should die before the term of his lease expired (which had then not quite a year to run) he would grant a renewal thereof to myself, his only son. This his landlord, whose name was Pelham, faithfully promised to do ; and my poor father quitted his presence, invoking heaven’s choicest blessings on his head. Shortly after this my father breathed his last, and scarcely had his remains been consigned to the earth ere I received notice to quit the farm at the expiration of the term. Upon receipt of this I repaired to the mansion of Mr. Pelham, to remind him of his promise to my deceased father, and to claim its

fulfilment; but, alas! in vain. He informed me that he had entered into an agreement with another party for the farm at an advanced rent, in addition to a sum to be paid down by way of fine. I returned home, as may be supposed, in a state of great dejection; the moment I entered the door my wife perceived my unhappiness, and naturally inquired the cause, which I soon put her in possession of; she did all that woman could do, poor soul, to console me under my affliction, but was herself so severely affected that in the afternoon of the same day she was actually seized with the pains of labour, and very soon after gave birth to a child, the exact resemblance of herself. I sent a special messenger that evening (as my term expired on the following day) to apprise my landlord of the situation of my wife, and the danger that would attend her removal under such circumstances, and requested an extension of time for a few days; but this was actually denied me, and on the following day Mr. Pelham, accompanied with a posse of constables, took forcible possession of my house and farm. This cruel treatment so exasperated me that one day chancing to meet him on horseback alone, I remonstrated with him on having violated his word, and been the cause of throwing me houseless and penniless on the world; this he construed into a threat, for which he had me taken up and committed to prison for three months. These concurring circumstances occasioned such

grief and anxiety of mind to the partner of my heart, that they threw her into a languishing disorder, which terminated not only in her death, but in that of the new-born innocent, which also fell a victim to the rigor and inhumanity of a merciless landlord."—Here O'Brien was so much affected that he could not for some moments resume his story, at length he proceeded—"Having thus been deprived of all that I valued on earth, I became callous and quite reckless, and in the plenitude of my rage vowed vengeance against the author of all my calamities. One night I learnt, with no small degree of satisfaction, that Mr. Pelham was gone to a neighbouring gentleman's house to dine, and that he would not return until late; I sallied forth and placed myself in a thicket by which he must pass, and having loaded my musket I waited for some time with considerable impatience, but no one making their appearance I was about to retire cursing my informant, when I perceived at a distance a man on horseback, in whom, as he approached, I instantly recognized my persecutor; I levelled my musket, not without some qualms of conscience, and discharged it at him, but without effect, as he rode off apparently uninjured. The next day it was buzzed abroad that an attempt had been made on the life of Mr. Pelham, and that he had very narrowly escaped, the ball having perforated his hat. Various surmises were afloat as to the perpetrator of the act: suspicion, however, fell

upon me, and the consequence was that warrants were issued for my apprehension. I had to fly from the place of my nativity, and wandered about the country for a long time without any fixed place of residence, until chance threw me in the way of my present companions, whom I have served for some years in the capacity of leader with honesty and fidelity, and from whom I do not wish to be separated as long as life lasts. It is but a few days since, that my cruel landlord escaped my just vengeance a second time; but his daughter is now in my power, whom I am resolved to make my wife whether she be willing or not."

It being now too far advanced in the night to hear the narratives of the rest of the banditti, and the storm still continuing to rage with unabated fury, myself and companion betook ourselves to some straw that was spread on the cold floor, upon which we lay down to rest, with no other covering than an empty sack or two; while the banditti retired to their different quarters, except one who was placed as a sentinel at the outlet to prevent a surprize. Being now left to ourselves, various were our thoughts and reflections on the singular events of the day; my companion, who had remained perfectly neuter during the evening, jogged me with his elbow to ascertain if I was asleep, on receiving an answer in the negative, "What a stew," said he, "I have been in during the night, lest those precious

vagabonds should discover I was a tithe proctor; had they known that I was one I might indeed have sold my griddle, for my bread was baked." I could not refrain from laughter at this trite and homely remark, and congratulated my friend on the narrow escape he had had. During this short discourse, my attention was arrested by a groan, apparently from the other extremity of the cavern; I asked my bedfellow if he had heard it, who answered, that he was about to ask me precisely the same question: we waited for some time in silence expecting to hear it repeated, but in vain, and were concluding it must have been a delusion; when suddenly it returned with greater force and more distinctly than before, and continued for some minutes, gradually becoming more and more faint, until nature, as it seemed, having become exhausted it ceased altogether. Curiosity, as well as a desire to relieve a fellow-creature in distress, stimulated me to quit my resting place, contrary to the wish of my brother-in-law, who felt extremely apprehensive lest I should fall into the hands of any of the banditti, who might be led to imagine that I was endeavouring to pry into their mysteries, and would no doubt punish me for my temerity. All the entreaties of poor O'Leary proved unavailing; I explored in darkness the other extremity of the cavern, and bent my steps to that part of it from whence the moaning proceeded; at a distance a small lamp was burning, by the

light of which I perceived the countenance of a human being, and on approaching quite close, I could easily distinguish the features to be those of a female who appeared to be in a slumber. She seemed about eighteen, her hair fell down in ringlets upon her neck, which was as white as the driven snow, her complexion was clear and delicate, her aspect open, lovely, and engaging. I gazed for some minutes upon this lovely apparition, who appeared to be something more than human, until my attention was drawn off by the appearance of an old dame, whom I had not previously noticed, dressed in a most strange and grotesque manner. She had on her head an old red nightcap, her outer garments consisted of a thread-bare soldier's coat and a flannel petticoat which reached to her knees, of a diversity of colours from constant patching and piecing; her visage was meagre, and wrinkled with age, with a nose resembling the beak of a parrot, and a long and pointed chin; she appeared to have lost all her teeth, either from the ravages of time or the rebuffs she had probably experienced; over her high cheek bones peered two small grey eyes, which were directed towards me with a sort of unconscious gaze.

We surveyed each other for some time with no inconsiderable degree of astonishment. At length I ventured to break silence by expressing my surprize at seeing a lady of such prepossessing appearance an inmate of such a dreary abode.

The old woman interrupted me by inquiring who and what I was, and the nature of my business there. I briefly stated to her that I was a stranger in those parts, and having been benighted, accidentally fell in with the captain, who kindly had given me shelter until the following morning. Having thus explained, I requested to be favoured with some particulars connected with the fair captive: upon this, with a scrutinizing eye she observed, I had better inquire of the chief. Finding myself thus foiled, I presented her with a gold coin which she readily accepted, at the same time urged her to gratify my curiosity, this had partly the desired effect, for she gave me to understand that the lady about whom I so anxiously inquired was the intended bride of the chief, and that he had allowed her ten days to make up her mind as to whether she would accept or reject his offer; but that she knew nothing more about her.

During this discourse the young lady awoke, and looking me in the face ejaculated a few hasty and incoherent words in the form of a prayer; of this the old dame took no notice, being more engaged in examining, at a short distance, by the light of the glimmering lamp, the coin I had given her: I availed myself of this favourable opportunity to assure her in the most earnest manner of my determination to become her deliverer, and that I only sojourned there during the night. Upon hearing this, in a faltering voice

she said, "I appreciate your heroic resolution, but do not attempt to risk your life to preserve one which is sinking fast into the grave." I recalled to her mind the necessity of having fortitude under such circumstances, and was about making some inquiries as to her situation, and the abode of her parents, that I might communicate with them, when the old woman abruptly interposed, and put an end to our conversation by informing me that the gentlemen, as she termed them, were about to rise, and if they found me prying into their affairs, she would not, to use her own phrase, give a rushlight for my life. I was too well assured of the truth of this homely observation for a moment to doubt it; so bidding a hasty adieu to this amiable captive, and renewing my promise that before the time stipulated I would effect her deliverance or perish in the attempt, I quickly retraced my steps to the resting-place of my companion, who awaited my arrival with impatience, and to whom I communicated the particulars of what had passed. I had scarcely laid my wearied limbs down to rest, when we were aroused by the captain, who desired us to arise and depart, at the same time offering to accompany us through the forest; we thanked him for his civility, and after saddling our horses we set out on our journey. I took particular notice of every object that was near the entrance to the cave, so as to be able to discover it again when next I paid it a visit. As soon as we gain-

ed the road, we took leave of O'Brien, who previous to our separation strongly enjoined us, on pain of incurring his most certain resentment, not to divulge what we had seen nor the place of concealment we had just quitted. This injunction we promised faithfully to observe, and assured him that he need be under no apprehension on that head, as the kind and hospitable treatment which we had experienced from him and his comrades demanded, instead of betraying him, our gratitude in return: upon this understanding we parted, apparently satisfied with each other.

As soon as O'Brien had disappeared our discourse turned upon the strange adventures of the preceding night, which to O'Leary was one of dreadful suspense and anxiety, he having made up his mind that it was to be the last night of his existence. For my part I acknowledge my fears on that head were not dissimilar to those of my friend at first, but they gradually vanished during the convivialities of the night. We continued our journey without meeting any further impediment to its completion, which terminated after a few hours' ride. I confess on my returning home that I had lost all recollection of the melancholy event which had occasioned our journey, and thought of nothing but the poor forlorn damsel that I had left in the cave, whose hapless condition constantly recurred to my imagination.

CHAPTER VIII.

My uncle having been for many years in good practice, and being unmarried, and by no means extravagant, it was generally supposed that he had amassed a considerable sum of money: various conjectures were afloat during the interval between his death and the day fixed for reading his will, as to the person who was likely to inherit it; some imagined that I should inherit it all, while others were of opinion that the bulk of the property would be left to another sister of my uncle's, whose husband was a cheesemonger residing in the town, or rather to her children, to whom he appeared much attached. In the mean while I continued every hour to receive the sordid smiles of a host of pretended friends to whom I had hitherto been an utter stranger, but who wished now to claim an acquaintance with one whose great expectations were so near being realized; but when the contrary of these predictions turned out to be the case, instead of the bewitching smile and hearty squeeze, they frequently passed me in the streets without ever deigning to recognize me; such, unfortunately, are the ways of men in general.

My uncle's remains were followed to the grave by an immense concourse of people from various parts of the country adjoining, who attended to

pay a tribute of respect to professional integrity and departed worth.

As soon as the last sad office was performed, the immediate friends and relatives of the deceased repaired to his late dwelling, and after some preliminaries had been gone through, the Will was produced in the midst of a group of expectants, whose looks and gestures fully testified the anxiety of their minds, which, however, was soon set at rest by one of the executors reading aloud as follows :—

“ I, Thomas Cheek, of Kenmare, in the county of Kerry, attorney at law, considering the uncertainty of life, do make this my last Will and Testament in manner following ; that is to say, I leave to my sisters, Bridget Fagg the wife of Darby Fagg, and Johanna Fogarty the wife of Terence Fogarty, all my property both real and personal, to be equally divided between them, share and share alike ; and in case of the death of either of them, the share of that one so dying to go to her children in equal shares and proportions ; excepting thereout a sum of five hundred pounds, which I have lent on mortgage to John Simpson, Esq., and which sum it is my will and desire may be set apart for my nephew Michael Fagg, until he shall attain the age of eighteen years, and as soon as he shall attain that age, then that the same, or a proportionate part thereof, be appropriated for articling him to some

respectable attorney, in case he shall prefer the profession of the law to any other. I appoint John Downing and Peter Harris, both of this town, shopkeepers, Executors of this my Will, to each of whom I leave the sum of fifty pounds for the trouble they will necessarily be put to in carrying the trusts thereof into execution.

Witness," &c.

The reading of this document was listened to with profound silence; and after indulging in a few vacant stares at each other, which plainly indicated the gratification of the friends of his relatives, and the disappointment of a few mercenary expectants who had been paying their court to the deceased in the hope of a handsome legacy, the company separated, to indulge at leisure in their different feelings and reflections.

As for myself, I was so much absorbed in the fate of the unfortunate lady whom I had left in the forest, and whose image constantly recurred to my imagination, that I did not pay that minute attention to the reading of the Will which I should have done under ordinary circumstances: full of sympathy and commiseration for her destitute and helpless condition, I resolved to leave nothing undone to fulfil the promise I had made. For this purpose, a day or two prior to that fixed for her acquiescence or refusal to the wishes of O'Brien, I went among a few of the young men of my acquaintance, who I thought were attach-

ed to me, with the view of soliciting them to aid me in effecting her release; I did not fail to represent the facts to them in the strongest terms, reminding them of the proud satisfaction we should have in reflecting that we had been instrumental in rescuing a fellow creature from impending ruin and infamy; but, alas! in vain, my representations were only met with ridicule and laughter. One gave me to understand that, if it was any thing which concerned myself personally, he would willingly assist me, but he could not think of going so great a distance on what he termed a visionary adventure; a second excused himself upon the plea that perhaps my heated imagination might have misled me, and that the lady to whose succour I was so anxious to proceed might be no other than the wife of one of the banditti, and in that case it might prove rather an awkward circumstance; whilst a third had the audacity to tell me that I was a second Don Quixote, setting out to succour damsels in distress, and that I wished to transform him into Sancho Panza. Disgusted with these unmanly and frivolous excuses, I resolved, unaided and alone, to endeavour to fulfil the promise I had made, but foreseeing the possibility of failure, or, in case of detection, of a fatal termination to my purpose, I deposited in the hands of a friend a sealed packet, which enveloped a testamentary paper in these words:—

“Being about to undertake a perilous enter-

prize which may terminate in the loss of my life, I write this to inform my parents, that in case so unfortunate an event should happen, my lifeless corpse will be found in a cave in Glanflesk forest, whither I have proceeded to rescue an unknown fair one, whom I am under promise to release out of the power of a banditti who infest that place; and, in case of my death, I desire that the legacy of five hundred pounds left me by my late uncle be divided between my brother and sisters, share and share alike."

Having thus arranged my worldly affairs, I mounted my steed, taking care to provide myself with a case of pistols, which I considered absolutely necessary to ensure success, and proceeded on my journey without meeting any interruption until I arrived at the forest, which I entered towards the close of evening; the banditti being in the habit of departing from their place of retreat at that time, to take summary vengeance upon those who had rendered themselves obnoxious by the cruel and inhuman treatment of their less fortunate fellow-creatures. I fastened my horse to a tree, primed my pistols, and bent my steps in the direction of the cave; but had not proceeded far before I found myself quaking in every limb, with fear at the idea of coming in contact with O'Brien and his troop, who, I doubted not, would put a period to my existence if they detected me again in the forest. I leaned against a tree for some time to support

my tottering limbs, undetermined what course to pursue, whether to return from whence I came or persevere in my design; however, after much reasoning, I resolved at all hazards to pursue the latter course, and for this purpose I thought it prudent to avoid the common track, which I noticed on the occasion of my first visit. I had scarcely proceeded the distance of fifty yards in the forest, ere I distinctly heard a voice which I could distinguish to be that of O'Brien; I stopped short, and threw myself flat on the ground, which I had scarcely done, before I heard one of the gang exclaim, "Hush! was not that something rustling among the trees?"— "Psha," answered another, "it is only your foolish fancy." "Perhaps so," rejoined a third. At this critical moment, which was to me one of dreadful anxiety, they passed within the distance of a few yards without perceiving me. In this fortunate escape I was materially assisted by my own presence of mind, in continuing with my face to the ground, as well as by the extreme darkness of the night: I lay for some time paralyzed with dread, at length hearing their footsteps die away, I rose and pursued my course in the direction of the cave, near to which I soon arrived quite exhausted; here I groped about for some time, unable to discover the entrance, in a state of mind which may be readily imagined, and was actually on the eve of retracing my steps, cursing my unlucky stars in not having taken the ad-

vice of those whose pusillanimity I had so recently condemned. Suddenly I struck on a stone which, having a hollow sound, I doubted not was the one so eagerly sought after; with some difficulty I lifted it up, and found my conjecture fully confirmed. A death-like silence reigned within as I descended the stone steps; I groped about in the dark, and in my progress stumbled over something in the form of a human being, and fell with great force to the ground; I doubted not this was one of the banditti, and springing on my legs with more than ordinary agility, and presenting my pistol in a determined manner, declared I would blow out the brains of the first person that attempted to move. "Not so fast, sirrah!" cried some person in a gruff voice, which I instantly knew to be that of Kathleen Desmond, the old woman described in the preceding chapter. In a peremptory tone I ordered a light; she soon procured one, and holding it up to my face, and surveying me with astonishment, exclaimed, "What a fine fellow you are, to come here at this here hour of the night to blow out the brains of a poor old woman like me!" "Come, come," said I, "do not thus annoy me woman, with your nonsense, but light me directly to the presence of the young lady whom I saw here about a week since." "Ay, ay," cried the old jezebel, "I see now how it is; it is well for you that all my gentlemen are abroad, or they would knock a little of the

bounce out of you." I expressed some anger at this insolent menace, and declared that my purpose was to act, not to talk ; she yielded with some reluctance, and handed me a light, which I declined taking, but insisted on her preceding me with it to the upper extremity of the cave, so as not to afford her the chance of giving alarm. Here I found the beauteous captive, who appeared in a kind of stupor, and unconscious of my approach ; I gazed upon her with a fixed attention, and remained some time silent, but recollecting the dangers that surrounded me, I gently aroused her from her reverie. She stared about wildly for some time, and at length fixed her eyes intently upon me. This appeared a favourable opportunity for disclosing the object of my visit, I therefore, in the most soothing and affectionate manner, reminded her of the promise I had made on a former occasion, and implored her to arise, and depart from thence without a moment's delay. "Gracious Heaven!" she exclaimed, as the tears stole down her pallid cheeks, "art thou indeed the generous stranger who promised to become my deliverer?" I assured her it was so ; and seeing her sensibly touched with her misfortunes, I importuned her to reflect that there was no time to be lost, as the banditti might return and frustrate all our plans, and that no doubt my life would pay the forfeit if detected. She seemed to feel the force of this remark, and commanding herself to the care and protection

of Divine Providence, desired me to retire for an instant, that she might compose herself a little, and adjust her dress. These few minutes I employed in securing old Kathaleen; whom I bound in the captain's arm chair, which was roughly constructed of oak, and too ponderous to be moved by the old crone, who vented forth innumerable threats and imprecations while undergoing this operation.

Our necessary preparations being completed, we retreated from the cave, and hastening through the forest by a circuitous route, we very soon reached the spot where I had fastened my horse. For the greater comfort of the fair fugitive I placed her in the saddle and myself behind, and committing ourselves to the care of the Almighty I spurred my horse forward, and it was not long before we reached the outskirts of the forest, keeping a bye-road, so as to avoid the banditti in case we should be pursued. By break of day we had gained such a distance as to be relieved from all anxiety with respect to our pursuers; and being much exhausted in consequence of the rapid pace at which we travelled, it was agreed that we should stop at the first inn we came to. It was not long before we espied one at a short distance, where we soon arrived; after conducting my fair companion into the house, and giving the necessary directions as to what we required, as well as to attend to the wants of my horse, we partook of such fare as a road-side inn usually

affords. Being now freed from danger, and refreshed both in body and mind, I ventured to make some inquiries of my companion, as to her parents, and how long she had been an inmate of the cave. She unhesitatingly informed me that she was the daughter of a gentleman of the name of Pelham, who lived some miles further off, and that she had about two months since fallen into the hands of the banditti, who she was apprehensive had both robbed and murdered her father. The accuracy of her statement I had every reason to credit; it was therefore agreed that we should proceed towards her home without loss of time. Finding my horse now able to pursue the remainder of the journey, we remounted, and excited some curiosity in the places through which we passed, in consequence of Miss Pelham being seated before me in the saddle, the contrary being the established custom of the country; we travelled onwards for some hours without any interruption, and towards evening we had the inexpressible pleasure of arriving within a short distance of the mansion of Mr. Pelham.

It was now mutually agreed that we should alight at the house of a friend of the family, while I conveyed to her parents the pleasing intelligence of her safety, lest her abrupt appearance might cause too great a shock to their feelings. We soon arrived at the place of destination, and alighted, where the presence of myself and com-

panion excited unspeakable amazement; after it had in some degree subsided, Miss Pelham's first inquiry was as to the safety of her parents, more especially her father, whom she learnt was still in existence, and that both were in a state of mind which might be more readily imagined than described. The intelligence of her father being alive imparted indescribable pleasure to Miss Pelham, who was sensibly touched with the sufferings of her parents. After giving way to sorrow and melancholy for a short time, she was at length prevailed upon to partake of some slight refreshment, in which I joined. The plan we had formed having been submitted to her friends and met with their approval, pen, ink, and paper were immediately procured, and she wrote as follows:—

“ My dear and affectionate parents,

This will be presented to you by a gentleman to whom I owe a debt of eternal gratitude as my deliverer, and who will inform you of the place where I am now staying, being apprehensive that my sudden appearance may be too much for my dear parents to encounter. I await, as you may suppose with no inconsiderable anxiety, to be once more restored to the arms of my fond and inestimable parents.

Your dutiful daughter,

Emily Pelham.”

This letter having been sealed and placed in my hands for delivery, I took a hasty leave, and

remounting my horse, I set out on my mission, and arrived without much loss of time, at the residence of Mr. Pelham, which was a very ancient mansion, a little off the high road, surrounded by a wall, at the entrance to which stood a porter's lodge. Having rung repeatedly without effect, I was actually on the point of returning, supposing they might have changed their residence, when some person in a gruff voice exclaimed, "Well sir, what is your pleasure?" I turned round and perceived a man whom age had nearly bent together, supporting his tottering limbs with a short thick stick. I gave him to understand that I had some particular information to communicate to his master, Mr. Pelham. "Pray," said he, "what is the nature of it?" "It is not necessary you should know," I answered, "but I wish to converse with him for a few minutes." "That you can't do," he replied, "as he is not in the habit of conversing with strangers." Upon this I replied that I could not depart until I had seen him, having most interesting intelligence to deliver: he bade me wait his return and disappeared. He had not been absent more than a few minutes when he returned, telling me his master declined seeing me until I sent in my name and business. I told him I could not disclose the nature of my business to anybody but to Mr. Pelham himself, but that I had no objection to give my name, which was Fagg. "Fagg, Fagg!" muttered the old man, as he disappear-

ed from my view. I waited his return in suspense, fully resolved, if not permitted, to force my way to the presence of Mr. Pelham. I had not waited long before he reappeared, telling me his master desired him to admit me; I was accordingly escorted by the old man to the door, and by a man-servant into the presence of Mr. Pelham. He was above the middle stature, and rather inclined to corpulency, his features were well formed, and his hair was as white as the driven snow, which gave him a most venerable appearance; there seemed something reserved and pensive in his deportment. He received me in a very courteous and affable manner, and I presented him with the letter, observing that it would put him in possession of the object of my visit; he received it, darting a glance alternately at the superscription and myself, opened the letter with trepidation, and seemed so overpowered ere he had read to the end that he was scarcely able to communicate the contents to an elderly lady who was sitting in the room at the time, and whom I afterwards learnt was Mrs. Pelham. Words are inadequate to express their mutual feelings, at first they were completely overpowered, but gradually recovering, they anxiously inquired after their daughter; I briefly detailed where I had left her, and the particulars connected with our escape, at which they seemed not only amazed, but penetrated with the most lively gratitude towards me; after a few minutes

spent in deliberation, it was agreed that I should return in company with Mr. and Mrs. Pelham to escort their lovely daughter home. The carriage was got in readiness with all possible expedition, and having taken our seats we set out accordingly at a rapid pace, and in a short time arrived at the house where I had left the object of their solicitude; we soon alighted, and in the next moment the beauteous Emily was locked in the embraces of her fond and adoring parents. As soon as these transports of ecstasy had subsided into calmness and serenity, we bade adieu to the friends of Mr. Pelham, at whose earnest desire I accompanied him with his wife and daughter.— As we approached the house we were met by a host of domestics, who seemed to vie with each other in a desire to testify their joy at the return of their young mistress, particularly the old porter from whom I had experienced so much opposition when endeavouring to gain admission to the presence of his master, but who now made ample apologies for his abrupt behaviour on that occasion. It is scarcely necessary to observe that I felt proud, and not a little vain in being the cause of making so many human beings happy. The servants, as soon as they had been made acquainted with the perils I had encountered to effect the release of Miss Pelham, seemed ready to worship me, and occasionally let drop a hint that young Miss could not repay them better than by bestowing her hand and heart upon one who had

proved himself so worthy of both. I was far from being displeased at these familiarities, but on the contrary I did all I could to countenance and encourage them, for I was pretty certain if they did not produce the desired effect, they would not have a contrary tendency.

I now thought it full time to take leave and return home; but this was strongly objected to by the family, who kindly remarked that they could not for a moment think of parting with one who had contributed so much to their happiness, and earnestly requested me to prolong my visit for a few days; in this request they were joined by their lovely daughter, who seemed desirous to conceal the joy which glowed in her bosom, and sparkled in her countenance on learning my acquiescence. In the mean while I despatched a letter to my parents by one of the servants, informing them that I should join them in a few days, and satisfactorily account for my unavoidable absence.

CHAPTER IX.

MATTERS being thus satisfactorily arranged, in the evening the family and their immediate friends together with many of the neighbouring gentry, sat down to a dinner which was served up with the utmost elegance. After dinner, Mr. Pelham

inquired if his daughter had put me in possession of how and in what manner she had fallen into the hands of the lawless men from whom I had so heroically rescued her. Upon my observing that she had only partly related the particulars, "Then you shall hear from my lips," said he, "how that melancholy event occurred," and he spoke thus:—

"My daughter and I left home on the 23rd of December, with the intention of visiting my brother, who is a clergyman of the established church, residing at a place called Blackrock, near Cork. We started from this place about two o'clock in the afternoon, in a gig, and intended reaching the half-way-house between this place and that city, where we resolved on taking up our quarters for the night, and to resume our journey on the following day; we were however, benighted very near the entrance to Glanflesk forest, where we arrived about six o'clock in the evening; our progress was here retarded by four men whose faces were blackened calling out to us to slacken our speed and deliver our money, and not to put them to the trouble of having recourse to force. I thought it better to comply with this menace than run the chance of having it carried into execution to obtain it. At this moment one of them who held a lantern in his hand in which a glimmering light was just perceptible, and which he held up to my face, swore, that if I did not deliver up my

money, even to the last farthing, he would blow my brains out. I remonstrated with them for some time but without effect, I therefore pulled out my purse, containing about fifty guineas, which I threw to one of the ruffians, who appeared to be the chief, which he had no sooner got possession of, than he shook it in my face, as it were to spite me. "This," he observed, "perhaps is the hard earnings of some half-starved and impoverished wretch, who to preserve a hovel over his head and to drag on a miserable existence, has parted with his last farthing: behold," said he, "a day of retribution has at length arrived." The determined tone and menacing attitude of this bravo, whose features I thought were familiar to me, alarmed poor Emily to such a degree that she swooned away." I interrupted Mr. Pelham here, by informing him that the name of the chief of the banditti was O'Brien, who, I believed, had formerly been his tenant; at this intimation Mr. Pelham seemed much amazed, and said he was no doubt the man who had once before attempted his life, on account of his having preferred another tenant to him, and who was the cause of his removal to that part of the country where he then resided. "Finding," continued Mr. Pelham, "that nothing was left for me but to drive off as fast as the horse would go, I did so, in the hope of meeting some persons on the road who might interpose and shield me from threatened destruction. For a while I

gained a short distance of my pursuers, which they no sooner perceived, than one of them discharged a blunderbuss at us, the contents of which I received in my right arm, and was thereby rendered incapable of controlling the speed of the horse, or assisting my daughter who was thrown out. The animal still continued at full speed, until the wheel of the gig came in contact with a turnpike gate, which happened to be open at the time; the concussion was so great, that I was thrown out headlong on the road with considerable force, and lay there until the toll-keeper assisted me into his house, from thence I was removed to an adjacent inn, where I was put to bed in a state of mind that may be readily imagined. A messenger was immediately despatched to the next town for a surgeon, who succeeded in extracting the ball from the fleshy part of my arm. The pain I endured made me quite delirious during the night; early the next morning, when the landlord entered to learn the extent of the injuries I had sustained, I applied to him for information respecting my daughter, but could glean no further intelligence from him than that I was brought there by the toll-keeper. I directed that some person should be despatched for him, and he speedily came, in company with the messenger, and gave me to understand that there was no person but myself in the gig at the time of the accident. The imperfect recollection I had of her having fallen out was now put beyond

doubt, and I made up my mind that she must either have been killed by the fall, or, what was almost as bad, have fallen into the hands of the desperadoes : the reflection that either of these forebodings should be realized, operated so powerfully on the disturbed state of my mind, that it threw me into a violent fever, from which I slowly recovered ; so that it was nearly a month from the fatal day that I lost my child before I was enabled to return home by travelling short stages in company with my dear wife and one of my servants, who had been sent for to attend upon me during my illness ; but it is impossible to describe our agitated feelings, when we reached the fatal spot where I feared we had been separated for ever."—Here Mr. Pelham and his lady seemed sensibly affected, as well as their amiable daughter, and indeed the whole company; some minutes elapsed ere he could resume his narrative, when he continued thus:—"It is scarcely necessary for me to observe that on arriving at home, I despatched people in all directions to endeavour to gain intelligence of my lost child, but without success ; but what many could not accomplish has been effected by this brave and generous youth (at the same time grasping my hand firmly and shaking it most cordially) it is to him I am indebted for the happiness which I have experienced this day, which amply repays the trouble and agitation I have undergone for some time past."

Here Mr. Pelham ended his narrative, and at the particular request of all present, I began mine, commencing with the death of my uncle, and ending with our escape from the cave. During the recital the company listened with profound attention. One of the company highly commended my enterprising spirit, and questioned me as to the motive which could have induced me to risk my own life to preserve one who was to me an utter stranger. I merely remarked, that to succour and relieve damsels in distress was considered, in days of yore, one of the noblest actions that could be performed, and that I did not see why a similar notion should not prevail in the present day, and feeling powerfully interested in the fate of the young lady, I determined to encounter all perils to rescue her from the horrible fate that impended over her. These remarks made a very visible impression on all present, more especially on Miss Pelham, the vermillion hue of whose lovely features fully attested how acutely she had felt their force.

As soon as every person had testified their unequivocal approbation of what they were pleased to term my manly, noble, and disinterested conduct, Mr. Pelham took me by the hand, which he shook heartily, at the same time addressing the company, "Well, indeed, has this courageous youth acquitted himself, and here in your presence, I have only to say in return, that he has only to demand any favour in my power to

confer, and it shall without any hesitation be instantly granted." I felt penetrated with this manifestation of gratitude, and my eyes, which at the time were fixed upon Emily, who was also intently gazing upon me, had well nigh betrayed the secrets of my heart; for had Mr. Pelham been attentively observing us, he might have easily discovered that the only favour which he could have conferred upon me, and which I should have deemed worthy of acceptance, was the hand of his beauteous daughter; for what was passing in my mind did not entirely escape the penetration of some of those present. After rallying a little, I thanked him for his professions of kindness, and assured him that should an occasion arise to need them, I should not fail to avail myself of his proffered friendship. The night being now pretty far advanced, the company separated, apparently delighted with the interesting events of the day.

The next day, the news having gone abroad, a host of friends flocked to Pelham Hall, to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Pelham on the happy restoration of their daughter, who highly complimented me on the successful issue of the dangers I had braved.

In the afternoon of the following day Mr. Pelham gave a splendid entertainment to his friends and surrounding tenantry to celebrate the auspicious event; a large tent was erected, and underneath which tables were laid for the accom-

modation of at least five hundred persons. At an early hour might be seen from various parts the old and the young, decorated in their gayest attire, flocking thither to partake of the good things provided for the occasion. Dinner being served up at the appointed hour, Mr. and Mrs. Pelham took their station at the head of the table, the guests arranging themselves indiscriminately, without any regard to station or circumstances. I was requested to take my place at the lower end of the table, to which I at first slightly objected, imagining that I should be placed at too great a distance from her who alone engrossed all my thoughts; but Mr. and Mrs. Pelham, anticipating, as it were, the anxious wish of my heart, observed that on such an occasion I should do the honours of the table at the lower end, in which I should be assisted by their daughter. In this arrangement I readily acquiesced, and accordingly led the charming Emily to the seat allotted to her, whilst I took my seat beside her, amidst the smiles and congratulations of the company. It would be impossible to describe the good humour that prevailed during the repast, and indeed throughout the evening. After the dinner, which in addition to a profusion of substantial fare, consisted of all the delicacies of the season, a signal was given for dancing to commence: accordingly Miss Pelham and myself, preceded by her parents, and followed by their numerous guests, proceeded to

the lawn, where we tripped on the fantastic toe. The dance was opened by my charmer and myself; and as we proceeded we had the inexpres- sible felicity of having our ears every moment assailed with the pleasing sounds of "What a handsome couple they would make," with other remarks alike agreeable on our graeefulness and agility, which I could divine was far from being displeasing to my lovely partner. While thus agreeably engaged, my consternation and surprise may be readily imagined on beholding my mortal foe M'Lacudey, whom I had not previously noticed, and who appeared to be no less astonished at seeing his old pupil so ably sustaining the character of the hero of the night. He rubbed his eye several times with the cuff of his coat, as if he doubted its powers of perception. His presence certainly disturbed me a good deal, as I doubted not but that if he did not spread reports abroad respecting me, he would take some opportunity to vilify and misrepresent me to the family of Mr. Pelham, and thereby avenge in some measure, the injury which he imagined I had done him, in being unintentionally the cause of the separation that had taken place between himself and wife. I inconsiderately determined to continue the dance, without appearing to recognize him, a slight which, unfortunately, added fuel to his former resentment. Dancing having been kept up until a late hour, the company separated, every one apparently delighted

with the entertainments of the day, except myself, who after having observed the usual formalities previous to retiring for the night, repaired to rest, not a little depressed in spirits by the unexpected presence of my late preceptor.

My conjectures as to the probable conduct of M'Lacuddy unfortunately proved too correct, for next morning after breakfast, Mr. Pelham, as soon as his wife and daughter had quitted the room, very candidly informed me that he could not think of concealing from me any circumstance which affected me personally, to whom the family owed so much, and gave me to understand that he had that morning received a letter from an unknown person who threw out some imputations against me, whether they were true or false he had no means of ascertaining; if destitute of foundation he should feel quite delighted, but if otherwise he should very much deplore the event: without further preface he put into my hands a letter in these words:—

“Respected Sir,

The young man whom you have so hospitably and liberally treated, and who is now I understand stopping at your house in consequence of his having been instrumental in restoring to you your daughter, I know well, and regret exceedingly that I cannot speak in favorable terms of him. He was the cause of my being separated from my wife, with whom I had lived on the happiest terms until he destroyed my peace of mind

for ever. I write this to put you on your guard against his artifices and treachery, lest he bring that disgrace upon you and yours which he has entailed upon me and mine.

I remain, Sir, with profound respect,
Your faithful servant,
Fylum M'Lacuddy."

On perusing the above epistle I felt quite astounded, and so overwhelmed with shame and confusion that I could make no reply; Mr. Pelham perceiving the effect it had upon me, desired me to be composed and not thus agitate myself: after a considerable pause I rallied a little, and assured him that the letter was a gross fabrication of the writer, to injure me in the estimation of himself and family; that I was at one time M'Lacuddy's pupil, and having been civil and obliging to his wife in executing some trifling commissions, he took into his head a notion that an improper connexion subsisted between us, but which, I solemnly assured him, had no existence in reality. With this explanation Mr. Pelham appeared satisfied, and thus the matter ended.

The morning fixed for my departure having arrived, fearing I should not have an opportunity of disclosing the passion that so much disturbed my peace of mind, I sought Miss Pelham in solitude, and found her in a summer-house in the garden, engaged in the perusal of some work which so much engrossed her attention that I approached quite close beside her before she was

aware of my presence. I gazed upon her for a few minutes with feelings of silent admiration, until my breathing forth a heavy sigh caused her to startle a little; I endeavoured to apologize for my intrusion, but, rising from her seat and holding forth her hand, she begged I would not be so ceremonious, and with a bewitching smile observed, that my presence would never be considered by her in the light of an intrusion. I made a suitable acknowledgment for this manifestation of her kindness, and gave her to understand that I had sought her for the purpose of announcing my intention of departing without loss of time, but that I could not do so until I had revealed to her a secret of the most vital importance to my future happiness. At this declaration she seemed much confused; begging her to resume her seat, on bended knees, and in the most soothing accents, I informed her of the tender flame which almost consumed me, and that unless she looked upon me with a propitious eye the remainder of my days would be spent in misery and wretchedness. She bade me rise, and, as if anticipating all I had to say, assured me that the recollection of the hazards I had encountered on her account would never be erased from her memory; that her heart was just then only susceptible of gratitude, but that she might some time or another be again capable of felicity; that she should always esteem me as a friend, and in her nightly orisons would not fail to commend me to the

care and protection of the Giver of all good.— Scarcely had she pronounced these consolatory words, at which I felt deeply affected, when the servant entered to announce that every thing was in readiness for my departure. This too sudden announcement overpowered us both, and some minutes passed ere I could pronounce, farewell ! Having at length recovered a little, I tendered my arm to the idol of my heart, which was readily accepted, and expressed a wish that she should be present when I took leave of her parents : we accordingly proceeded towards the house without uttering a single syllable, till we met with Mr. and Mrs. Pelham at the garden entrance, of whom I took an affectionate leave, and once more bidding adieu to Emily, I mounted my horse and was soon out of sight of my grateful friends, and of the only being whom I valued above all others on earth. After a ride of several hours, I reached home that night, where my return was hailed with pleasure by my parents and friends.

The fete given by Mr. Pelham, with which my name was coupled, having been noticed in flattering terms by the newspapers of the day, when I appeared in public I was looked upon with eagerness and curiosity, which I confess made me not a little vain of myself: however, as this occurrence was, like many others, "only a nine days' wonder," in a short time it blew over and was entirely forgotten.

CHAPTER X.

THE vanity of my success being now dissipated, I thought it full time to examine more minutely into my uncle's affairs, which were managed exclusively by his executors. I found the assets, after payment of his debts and funeral expenses, amounted to about five hundred pounds, which was divided between my mother and aunt in equal moieties. As to the five hundred pounds left to me by my uncle's will, it was by no means an eligible investment, there being prior incumbrances affecting the property, and but little chance of their being ever discharged. This news disconcerted me a good deal, as I had hoped with that sum to get articled to some respectable attorney, which would in some measure strengthen my pretensions to aspire to the fair hand of Miss Pelham: but, alas! all my hopes were frustrated, and my future prospects and happiness in life retarded and rendered almost hopeless.

To dissipate these melancholy reflections, I took it into my head to visit the mistress of my heart, whose presence I fancied would be a balm to my agitated mind, and mitigate in some degree my pecuniary disappointments. Having made the necessary arrangements I set out for the happy mansion of Mr. Pelham, where I safely.

arrived, and was greeted with evident symptoms of pleasure by all the family, more especially by Emily, whose looks and behaviour fully testified her satisfaction at once more beholding me at Pelham Hall. I had not long enjoyed these agreeable reflections ere I discovered a visible change in the manner and conduct of Mr. Pelham towards me: on my former visit he appeared penetrated with gratitude, but now he seemed distant, formal, and reserved. What to attribute this sudden change to I knew not, unless it was to M'Lacuddy's epistle; however, I dissembled and pretended not to notice it. On dinner being announced I repaired in company with Mr. Pelham and the rest of the family to the dining-room, where I found a gentleman seated whom I had not previously seen, and who was introduced to me as Mr. Curzon. Though the dinner consisted of every thing that could give a zest to the appetite, I partook of it but very sparingly, my whole attention being engrossed by the presence of the stranger, in whom I apprehended I should find a rival in Emily's affections. Whilst lost in this contemplation, Mrs. Pelham observed that she was afraid the indifferent dinner I had made was owing to illness, at the same time expressing a hope that her surmise was unfounded. I assured her that she was not altogether mistaken, that I felt somewhat indisposed from the effects of my journey, but with a little rest I should no doubt recover; after this explanation the ladies retired.

The bottle was now introduced, and Mr. Pelham, Mr. Curzon, and myself partook freely of its contents; during this short period many topics were brought under discussion, and among others the subject of the Union with Great Britain was adverted to, which I contended was an act of the grossest political turpitude that ever disgraced any age or nation, and that until the Act of Union was repealed, and the people of Ireland put in possession of their local legislature and allowed to manage their own affairs, they must ever continue in poverty and wretchedness. Mr. Curzon attempted to refute these observations by asserting that the grand object of the anti-unionists was a total dismemberment of the empire, and the furtherance of their own ambitious views. This I contended was an unfounded charge, and that their desire was to form another on a more equitable basis, which would cement the connection with Great Britain and thereby promote the prosperity of Ireland. Mr. Pelham here took part in the discussion, by contending that Ireland had been benefitted rather than injured by the Union, inasmuch as she found a ready market for her produce in England. To this I replied that the vast quantity of provisions daily exported from Ireland was no proof of her prosperity, but that the contrary was obviously the case, and that the strongest and most undeniable evidence of this fact was in the vast multitude whose labour had produced these prime articles of subsistence,

and which they saw conveyed to other countries in order to raise money to satisfy the rapacity of absentee landlords, whilst themselves were compelled from year's end to year's end to drag on a miserable existence on potatoes alone: both my adversaries remaining silent, I went on to observe that I was in favour of that measure from a conviction that its adoption would be productive of incalculable advantages to the people of both countries, as, amongst many others equally manifest, it would compel the unfeeling absentees to reside in Ireland for a certain portion of the year, at least during the period of their parliamentary duties, and the ready cash which they so profusely and improvidently squander in other countries would be expended among their half-starved tenantry and famishing artisans, and by that means money would circulate, trade would revive, and capital flourish. My opponents finding themselves worsted in this argument, introduced a theological one, which Mr. Curzon (who I afterwards learnt was the son of a dignitary in the church) commenced by inquiring in a very abrupt manner what religious creed I professed? I unequivocally answered that I was a Roman Catholic. "Ah," he replied, "I regret to hear you, Mr. Fagg, make such a declaration, as I have always had a very great aversion to any person of that persuasion." With some warmth, I expressed my surprize that he should have been so biassed as to give utterance to such sentiments,

more especially against a religion which had been at one time the ancient religion of the country. "Yes," he retorted, "it is old certainly, not in godliness nor holiness, but in vice and iniquity." I rejoined, that its iniquities had not exceeded those of a more modern one, namely, the church as by law established, whose anti-christian and rapacious practices I pretty severely handled.— This heat of mine gave my adversary all the advantage he desired over me, who in his turn waxed wrath, and appealed to Mr. Pelham to know whether he would countenance such intemperate language. That gentleman, whose prejudices were in accordance with those of my opponent, immediately espoused the same side of the question, and insisted on my immediately retracting my expressions and making a suitable apology, or, as the only alternative, to quit the house directly. These words made my blood boil with indignation, and rising from my seat I exclaimed, "Rather than relinquish my religious opinions, which have been instilled into my mind ere I could scarcely lisp, and which is the religion of my choice in my mature years, I would forfeit my life, and that I should certainly embrace the other branch of the alternative rather than do so." Thereupon hastily quitting the house I repaired to the nearest inn, and after some time lost in reflection, I procured the necessary materials and wrote as follows :

" My dear Miss Pelham,

Your father's intemperate behaviour, to use no harsher language, has compelled me to depart from the house rather abruptly, without having an opportunity of even taking leave of either yourself or Mrs. Pelham. He took umbrage, or pretended to do so, at some expressions which had inadvertently fallen from me respecting a difference of religious opinions between me and Mr. Curzon ; Mr. Pelham seemed to espouse the cause of my opponent so warmly that he left me, my choice of two evils—either to retract my expressions in toto, which were by no means offensive, or to quit the house that instant ; the latter I have chosen to do, for rather than submit to such dictation I would relinquish my life. The only thing I regret is, that I shall by this circumstance be debarred the pleasure of even beholding you occasionally. I yet presume to entertain a most lively hope that I shall not be altogether forgotten by you, and in this hope

I remain ever yours,

M. Fagg."

With this effusion I repaired to the lodge, and having previously secured the good offices of the porter by a gift, I despatched him with it to the house, with an injunction that he should deliver it to no person but Miss Pelham ; he soon proceeded to execute the commission, and after waiting for some time in much anxiety, I was happily relieved from my suspense by his return-

ing and placing in my hands a letter which ran in these words :

" My dear Mr. Fagg,

Your letter was the first intimation that I had of any misunderstanding having arisen between you and my father, which I very much regret, particularly on so abstruse a subject as religion. You conclude your letter by expressing a hope that you will not be altogether forgotten by me ; indeed, were I capable of acting so, I should consider myself guilty of the grossest ingratitude towards one who has undergone so much on my account, and rest satisfied that no change of circumstances shall ever alter my mind and sentiments towards you. Be more cautious when you write, lest our correspondence should be detected.

Ever yours sincerely,

Emily Pelham."

The agitation of my mind completely subsided as soon as I had perused this epistle, as I doubted not from its tenor that if I had not already gained her affections I had made rapid progress towards it. Full of these pleasing reflections I quitted the lodge, and repairing to the inn I remounted my horse and returned home, not a little chagrined at the apparent ingratitude of Mr. Pelham.

The next day I directed my rage against M'Lacuddy, whose letter I doubted not contributed in a great measure to the breach that had thus

taken place; for though Mr. Pelham seemed quite satisfied with the explanation that I had afforded him, it was apparent to me, from his subsequent behaviour, that he only affected to be so, and he had seized upon the dispute with Mr. Curzon as a pretext for acting as he did; on inquiry, however, I learnt that M'Lacuddy had a few days previously sailed for America with his spouse, to whom he had been reconciled through the interposition of some friends, so that the fumes of my resentment disappeared with him.

My uncle's assets, which did not at all realize our expectations, being collected and divided, as before stated (except the legacy of five hundred pounds left to me, which at present appeared hopeless), my parents resolved on returning to their native city, on the suggestion of my brother Darby, who had for some time held a confidential situation there as clerk to a butter-merchant. Previous to their setting out, I determined once more to visit Miss Pelham. For this purpose I despatched a note by post, apprizing her of our contemplated change of residence, and imploring her, as she valued my future peace of mind, to grant me an interview on the following night at the lodge, as it would be some time before I should again have the pleasure of beholding her. I set out the next day for the place of assignation, where I arrived a short time before the appointed hour, and almost immediately after, the dear object of all my wishes made her appear-

ance, attended by a female servant who enjoyed her confidence ; scarcely had she set her foot inside the threshold of the lodge than, impelled by an irresistible impulse, I clasped her in my embraces. In an instant her face was covered with blushes : as soon as she recovered from the confusion into which my precipitate transport had thrown her, she reproved my boldness in very severe terms, and desired I would not so far forget myself or her as to endanger the regard she had for me, and, in short, mingled so much good sense and sweetness in her reproof, that I threw myself at her feet, craved pardon for my presumption, and implored her to regard my passion with a favourable eye. She entreated me to rise, observing she could not refuse any thing to me, to whom she was indebted for the happiness she enjoyed, and laying aside her reservedness, crowned my future hopes by an admission that the flame was mutual. Emboldened by this declaration I encircled her again in my arms, and our reciprocal vows of eternal love and fidelity were sealed, with kisses as chaste as were ever given.

After nearly an hour had been spent in repeating our vows of mutual love and constancy, I forced myself from this adored being, and mounting my horse returned home in an ecstacy of delight, and resolved to direct all my future energies to the attainment of a station in life worthy to be shared by so much excellence.

CHAPTER XI.

ON the following morning we set out for our native city, where we arrived on the second day, without any thing happening worth recording. My father being now in possession of upwards of two hundred pounds, in a short time got established in business, which, with the assistance of my brother, enabled us to get on rather prosperously.

I had not been long here before I succeeded in obtaining a situation in the office of a Mr. Millard, an attorney of considerable practice, and who combined in his person the no less lucrative business of a bill discounter. He was a stout, portly-looking personage, about fifty years of age, and was particularly careful of his head, which he powdered profusely, as it gave him that grave and solemn air so essential as he conceived, to the maintenance of the dignity of a member of the legal profession. He was not indeed a very great proficient in legal lore, but this defect he supplied in some measure by a quick perception, and a tolerable fluency of speech, which not unfrequently involved him in petty bickerings and contentions.

I made it my particular business to study his faults and foibles, and in a short time gained such an ascendancy over him, that he looked

upon me rather in the light of a friend and confidant than in the capacity of a clerk. In this manner several months rolled over my head almost imperceptibly.

My master's facility of speech, upon which he prided himself not a little, brought him frequently into collision with the assistant barrister who presided in the Sessions Court, (which is a court established in various parts of Ireland for recovering debts not exceeding twenty pounds in a summary way) with whom he was almost daily engaged in disputes and altercations, and which tended to diminish rather than increase his business; the interests of the client frequently suffering in the person of the advocate.

Mr. Justice Dobson, the assistant barrister who presided at the time, was not so much distinguished for his legal qualifications as a judge on the bench, as he was for indulging his drowsy propensities, being not unfrequently aroused from his slumbers by the stentorian lungs of the solicitors opposed to each other.

My employer having been for many years in high repute in this court, and being no less celebrated in his other calling of money broker, amassed considerable property, a great portion of which he from time to time lent to some of the most influential men of the country; who, when selected to fill the office of sheriff, by way of acknowledging their pecuniary obligations invariably selected him as their sub or deputy she-

riff; the perquisites appertaining to which office he took especial good care of. Finding these multifarious duties more than he could efficiently discharge, he resolved on relinquishing his practice in the Sessions Court; for this purpose he repaired to the court one day to announce his intention, and take a farewell of his brother practitioners. Whilst waiting for an opportunity to do so, a cause which had escaped his recollection, and in which he was concerned for the defendant, having been called on, he cross examined one of the witnesses very severely, who in return appealed to the bench for protection; but his worship not appearing to pay prompt attention to the appeal, in fact, he was indulging in his usual nap, the exasperated witness imagining that he was, to use a common phrase, *tipping him the wink* to suppress the truth, exclaimed, "It is no use for your worship to be winking at me, for I am determined to tell the whole truth." This joke excited considerable merriment, which his worship by no means relished, as it tended to shew up one of his numerous foibles so culpable in a judicial functionary, but which was then overlooked from his staunch adhesion to the ruling powers of the day.

Mr. Millard, after taking leave of the court and his fellow practitioners, who seemed to regret the step he had taken, from thenceforth attended exclusively to the onerous duties incidental to his office at the assizes; I was necessarily

called thither very frequently to lighten his burthens, and whilst so engaged, one day two men were put to the bar, charged with flaying alive a tithe proctor, by thrusting him stark-naked into a hole, filled with nettles and black thorns, by reasons and means whereof, divers bruises, wounds, and contusions, were inflicted on his person, tending to endanger his life, contrary to his Majesty's peace, his crown, and dignity, and to the form of the statute in such case made and provided.

The reading of the indictment was listened to with profound silence, and on the prisoners being called on for their plea, they both replied in firm and audible voices, "Not guilty." At this moment looking intently towards the bar, my surprize may be readily imagined on discovering the prisoners to be no other than O'Brien, the chief of the banditti, and one of his companions. During the trial I watched the motions of O'Brien, who stared vacantly around for some time, without seeming to recognize any one; but at length his eye happening to alight upon me, he gazed intently on me for some time with evident surprize, and his fixed gaze was only drawn off by the prisoners being called upon for their defence. A witness was produced on their behalf, whom I instantly recognized as Rufus M'Dermott, who proved an alibi; but his testimony being looked upon with suspicion, and not being corroborated by any other evidence, it had but

very little weight, and the prisoners consequently were both found guilty, and immediately after were sentenced to transportation during the term of their natural lives. They heard their doom with perfect indifference, particularly O'Brien, who did not seem in the least dismayed at the result of the trial. Thus terminated the career of those misguided men who might, if differently treated, have been useful and worthy members of society. For my own part, I felt some satisfaction that the future exploits of these daring desperadoes would be performed in a distant country, as I had not at times been entirely free from apprehension that their chief might seek an opportunity of taking vengeance on me for depriving him of his bride.

During my probation with Mr. Millard, which comprised nearly a period of two years, I did not fail, when a fitting opportunity occurred of ingratiating myself into the opinion of the fair sex, with many of whom I became an especial favourite; amongst them was a young woman of the name of Godfrey, who was governess in a public establishment. Her age was about eighteen, her person was extremely handsome, and her mind highly cultivated. By some of those attentions which the ladies generally desire to have paid them I very soon gained an ascendancy over her, which terminated in my taking advantage of her confidence and, in an unguarded moment, sacrificing her honour to a momentary gratification.

Her situation soon rendered it necessary that some decisive steps should be taken to avoid the disgrace attendant upon an exposure; the scheme she adopted was, to tender her resignation under a plea of bettering her condition; for this purpose she procured a friend to represent the lady who was about to engage her, and who acquitted herself so much to the satisfaction of the governors of the institution, before whom she attended, that not the slightest suspicion was entertained of the real situation of poor Rosina Godfrey, nor of the imposition that had been practised upon them. On quitting, Miss Godfrey's exemplary behaviour was rewarded by a very handsome douceur.

Having thus succeeded to our hearts' desire, we took lodgings in a retired part of the city, where we passed as a new-married couple, under the assumed name of Watkins, and in due time Miss Godfrey was delivered of a male child. I confess that I felt not a little vain of the dignified appellation of "Papa." Intoxicated beyond measure at the success of my gallantries, I visited balls, concerts, and masquerades, particularly the latter, where I sustained the characters of a tithe proctor, a middle-man, and a forty-shilling freeholder, with considerable eclat. These soarnings, so far beyond the humble sphere that I had been accustomed to move in, necessarily entailed expenses which my slender resources were not adequate to meet; the consequence was, that I

became daily more and more involved in difficulties, without having the most distant expectation of being able to retrieve myself. Poor Rosina, perceiving the visible change in my behaviour, remonstrated frequently, but in vain. I conceived that I might avoid her remonstrances, and contract my expenditure, by getting rid of her altogether; full of these ideas, I returned home one night and signified my determination that the child should be put out to nurse and the lodgings given up as soon as possible. She listened to me with the utmost tranquility, and in a calm and collected manner replied, "Is it thus Fagg, that you behave to me who have relinquished friends and acquaintances for you? Scarcely have I yet recovered from the imprudent step into which your persuasions and artifices have led me, than you manifest an impatience, of which you ought to be ashamed, to get rid of me, and throw me on the world unprovided for and unprotected, without even a friend to succour or console me under my misfortunes."

The appeal thus made to my feelings moved me to compassion, and made me regret exceedingly my inconsiderate and abrupt behaviour; however, matters had now proceeded too far to retract, it was therefore mutually agreed that as soon as Miss Godfrey had procured a situation, and the child could be put out to nurse, we should separate. These two events, so much desired by me, in a few days subsequently took place.

CHAPTER XII.

FINDING myself once more disengaged I relapsed into my former habits and irregularities, which I carried to a much greater extent than heretofore, and instead of retrieving myself by endeavouring to contract my expenditure, every day considerably augmented it; but the disadvantage under which I thus laboured was in my own opinion counterbalanced by the fame I had acquired, so much so, that the calamity of every lady of doubtful character, not otherwise provided for, was invariably laid at my door.

However much my own vanity was gratified by these pursuits, yet they so frequently abstracted my attention from my professional avocations that Mr. Millard thought it necessary to remonstrate with me on the scandal they occasioned, and after having pretty severely denounced what he termed my disgraceful conduct, candidly told me that if I did not abandon my dissipated habits we should separate. At this declaration I felt extremely mortified, and determined on taking advantage of the threat thus thrown out, when a proper opportunity presented itself. The following circumstance induced me to carry this determination into effect.

A farmer named Flynn, who resided in the suburbs, entered the office one day with a doleful

countenance, and in a melancholy tone requested the favour of a personal interview with Mr. Millard, having a case of peculiar hardship to detail to him. He was accordingly admitted to his presence, where he had not been long, before I was called in to hear the tale which he had to unfold. Flyn it seems had sold a horse for fifty pounds, to a Mr. Newman, who was a magistrate of considerable property residing in the neighbourhood, upon whom he was to call in a fortnight for the money. Flyn had been formerly this gentleman's tenant, and left the farm in arrears, but which were forgiven him by his landlord at the time he quitted. At the end of the time stipulated he called for the money, but without success; after repeated applications, he was at length given to understand, that Mr. Newman intended to set off the price of the horse against the arrears of rent left unpaid. The applicant's object was therefore to recover the value of the horse, having sufficient evidence that the arrears had been forgiven at the time the farm was given up; but on being further questioned by Mr. Millard, it appeared that there was no person present but the parties themselves at the time of the alleged sale; the case was consequently untenable, there being no person to prove the contract and its fulfilment by one of the parties. When Flyn was made sensible of the difficulties that surrounded his case, he unhesitatingly offered half of the money to any one that

would undertake to recover it for him, rather than his wrongs should remain unredressed.—Mr. Millard, the fertility of whose imagination kept pace with his love of lucre, at once agreed to undertake the recovery of the money upon the terms proposed: the bargain was struck accordingly, and the farmer went home in high glee.

As soon as he had disappeared, Mr. Millard, addressing himself to me said, “I have hit upon a plan, Fagg, which for brilliancy of thought and depth of ingenuity might have been equalled but certainly never surpassed; and in this I shall want your assistance. I understand in your masquerading frolics you have represented various characters, amongst others a tithe proctor, with some success, I think you can go one step farther and personate the devil; you will easily procure a suitable dress at the masquerade room: in this character you shall way-lay Newmen, and frighten him into an admission of the debt due to Flynn, and our success is indubitable; in the mean while I shall go to his house on pretence of business, and learn when he is likely to go abroad, and we can arrange our plans accordingly. He is, from all I can learn, an infamous rogue, and has been guilty of a great many misdeeds in his life-time, and is moreover so weak-minded as to be almost afraid of his own shadow. The moment he sees you, he will imagine that Old Nick has come to punish him for his innumerable transgressions, and will be so terrified

that he will readily acknowledge the debt." I listened to this scheme with great attention, which Mr. Millard had no sooner unburthened himself of, than I burst into a hearty laugh, in which he good-humouredly joined.

After some further discussion we parted, fully bent on trying the experiment. Mr. Millard undertook to discover the movements of the magistrate, while I repaired to the masquerade room to select a becoming dress for the occasion. We met again in the course of the afternoon, when he informed me that he had learnt that Mr. Newman was to dine with a brother magistrate, who resided in the neighbourhood, on the following day, and would not return home until late; it was therefore agreed that we should on the following night set forward and conceal ourselves in his demesne before the time it was supposed he would return.

In the mean time I procured my dress, and about ten o'clock on the following night I proceeded to Mr. Millard's, and equipped myself in the paraphernalia of his satanic majesty; the suddenness of my transformation excited the risible faculties of my master, who pronounced me to be an inimitable devil. Having engaged a coach, we soon arrived in the vicinity of our place of destination, where we alighted and bade coachee wait our return. We proceeded on foot the remainder of the way, and having climbed over a wall which surrounded the premises, sta-

tioned ourselves in a thicket by the side of a gravel walk which led to the mansion. We had not been long here before we espied a man approaching, whom we imagined to be our object; as he drew near Millard observed to me, "Here he comes Fagg, now is the time for you to strike the decisive blow, and immortalize yourself by an adroit performance." At this intimation, I sallied forth from our hiding-place, but on drawing near, I discovered him to be a rustic, who no sooner beheld me than, after crossing himself several times, he exclaimed, "In the name of the Blessed Virgin, save me! save me!" and scampered off as fast as his legs could carry him. We were amused with the fright and exclamation of the countryman, as well as mortified at the disappointment he had occasioned us; however, we had not long resumed our former position, before the real Mr. Newman made his appearance, enveloped in a great coat, and moving along at a rapid pace. It being a moonlight night, I thrust forward my horns and cloven foot, and while one hand brandished my prong, with the other I swung my tail in a very conspicuous manner, so as to present myself before his worship in a manner calculated to make an awful impression on him. He no sooner perceived me than he started back a few yards, and stared at me quite petrified with terror; probably summing up his misdeeds, and imagining that the day of reckoning had arrived. I drew back a

few paces, which encouraged him to advance towards the house as fast as his fright would permit, glancing every moment behind him; he soon gained the door, and plied the knocker and bell with all his might. There was now no time to be lost, I therefore sprang on his back with the agility of a monkey, and vociferated into his ear in a sepulchral voice, "Why don't you pay poor Flyn for his horse?" The terrified justice replied in hurried accents, "I will, I will, instantly." During this encounter, Mr. Millard had advanced close behind us, so as to hear the admission made of the debt, in order to corroborate my testimony if necessary. The door being now opened, his worship, overpowered with horror, fell into the arms of his servant. Having thus achieved our object, we hastily retreated to the coach, and returned to town, quite elated with the success of our stratagem.

The next morning it was agreed that Flyn and I should wait upon Mr. Newman, and make a formal demand of the money, as a preliminary step to commencing proceedings for its recovery. This we did in a few days subsequently, and were cordially received by the magistrate, who immediately paid the money, and expressed his regret that it should have been so long withheld.

I returned to Mr. Millard's in company with Flyn, to whom a moiety of the money was paid over, pursuant to the contract entered into with my employer; who made me a present of a five

pound note, and pocketed the remaining twenty pounds himself.

This unparalleled act of legal ingenuity having by some means or other got wind, became in a short time the general topic of conversation, and occasioned Mr. Millard to be distinguished by the appellation of the Devil's Deputy; a distinction he so little relished, that he endeavoured to screen himself by throwing the odium of the disgraceful transaction upon me. My pride took the alarm at these insinuations, and as I had no ambition to cut a figure as the Devil's Deputy's Deputy, I resolved on quitting his service altogether, which determination I carried into effect as detailed in the following chapter.

CHAPTER XIII.

BEING in the habit of reading in the public prints and other channels of information, of the magnificent sights that were to be seen in the metropolis of the empire, and of the various places of amusement with which it abounded, I sought for some time with much earnestness for an occasion to pay it a visit. The long-wished-for opportunity at length presented itself: a young man of my acquaintance, named Wheeler, being destined for the church, was about to proceed to Oxford, where he intended to graduate,

and expressed a strong desire that I would accompany him, as he purposed visiting London previous to taking up his quarters at Oxford; and as a stimulus he proposed to bear me harmless from all expenses incidental to the journey. He could not have offered any thing more congenial to my feelings, for I passionately longed to see a little more of the world ; nevertheless I had sufficient discretion to conceal my joy, and shewed so much indecision that we parted with an engagement to meet again in the afternoon at a tavern, and discuss the anticipated pleasures of the journey over a glass of grog.

At the time appointed I repaired to the house fixed on for our meeting, where my friend Wheeler was waiting my arrival with impatience. I still manifested some reluctance to quit my present situation for the uncertainty of procuring one elsewhere, illustrating my observations by the proverb of "A bird in the hand being better than two on a tree;" at the same time advertising to the crippled state of my finances, and their inadequacy to my support for any length of time in case I should prove unsuccessful in obtaining employ. My friend heard me to the end, and in a very earnest manner replied, "I am surprized, Fagg, that you should for a moment hesitate to accompany me, you have often expressed a wish to visit the famous city of London, and now that an opportunity presents itself you seem reluctant to embrace it. Come, come, Fagg, let not this

offer escape you; you cannot tell, man," continued Wheeler, in a very ardent manner, "what chance may turn up in your favour; you are, without flattery, a devilish good-looking fellow, and who knows but some fair lady may take a strange liking to you, and by that means you may make your fortune in a very short-time." I could easily perceive the drift of my friend's observations, and that he was quite regardless of my future fate provided he could prevail upon me to accompany him; finding it useless to dissemble any longer, I yielded my assent, at which he seemed mightily pleased, and we parted upon an understanding that we should sail in two days, so as to give me an opportunity of announcing my determination, not only to my parents but also to Mr. Millard previous to my departure.

My parents at first strongly objected to the intended journey on the ground of my youth and inexperience, but finding me persist in my resolution, they reluctantly consented thereto. I afterwards repaired to Mr. Millard, to whom I communicated my design; he heard me with much surprize, and after remonstrating with me on the injudicious and imprudent step I was about to take, without effect, concluded thus:—"Well, Fagg, I regret exceedingly the premature step you are about to take, but as your parents have not been able to divert you from your purpose, there is little chance of my being able to persuade you by any remarks that may happen.

to fall from me. I have, however, as you must know, on all occasions, done whatever lay in my power to make you contented with your situation, and I intended to have given you still more substantial proofs of my good intentions than mere words; but the resolution you have come to precludes me from carrying my designs into effect. You have, no doubt, reflected seriously on the dangers and difficulties that you will necessarily be exposed to in a strange country where you have neither friends nor relations, nor yet, what is more necessary, a superabundance of money to sustain you in case your exertions should not prove successful; yet, notwithstanding these manifest disadvantages, you are determined to brave all rather than continue in your situation." I assured him I had taken all these circumstances into consideration, and that nothing could alter my purpose. "Well, as you appear unshaken in your determination, go," he observed, slipping into my hand a note, "and may you prosper." I bade him farewell, and on regaining the street examined the note, which I found to be of the value of ten pounds Irish:—I returned home penetrated with gratitude for the benevolence of my late employer, and regretting that I had not sooner been aware of his friendly views towards me.

The day now arrived on which I was to leave home for an indefinite period, for the first time of my life. Having placed my wardrobe in a

portmanteau, I took leave of my family, particularly my parents, who mingled their tears with their kisses, and read me a severe lecture on the absolute necessity of living honestly, soberly, and piously. I quitted their presence overwhelmed with grief, and proceeded at once to the packet office, and having taken my berth, I went on board the vessel, where I found my friend Wheeler, and in a few minutes bid adieu to my native city, and set sail for England, having previously communicated my departure to Miss Pelham, on whose mind I endeavoured to impress a prospect of the happiness that would await our mutual constancy.

CHAPTER XIV.

We landed in Bristol after a quick passage of forty hours; here we continued for a few days, visiting every place worthy of notice in that city, and although it was then a common observation that the women of Bristol were so very ordinary that it was the practice, in order to induce a man to marry one of them, to confer the freedom of the city on him immediately after the ceremony was concluded, yet I confess I cannot concur in the justness of this remark, having, during my short stay there, seen several of the fair sex whose personal appearance gave it a direct negative. On

the day previous to that fixed for our departure for the capital, I met a female of most prepossessing appearance in the street, who had really all the external appearance of a lady; she was leading a child by the hand, and surveyed me with a scrutinizing eye as I passed her; I turned round to look after her, supposing I was not unknown to her, when she instantly seemed to recognize me, and manifested a disposition to cultivate my acquaintance. Upon intimating to Wheeler that I had some intention of introducing myself to her, he stoutly opposed it, under the supposition that she was the wife of some respectable citizen who was mistaken with regard to my person, and that my reception would be far from agreeable when she discovered her error. My friend's remarks were not sufficient to deter me from my purpose, and I exchanged his company for that of the female, with whom I very soon fell into conversation, under the pretext that I had seen her elsewhere; she declared that she was labouring under a similar impression. After we had mutually undecieved each other in this respect, our discourse was interrupted by my fair companion stopping at the door of a house of tolerable appearance, which I supposed to be her residence, and was about to retire highly gratified with the few moments we had spent in each other's society; but Miss Henman (that being her name as I afterwards learnt) with a most bewitching smile, which it was impossible to resist,

invited me in. Previous to complying, I waited for Wheeler to come up, who lagged behind, being doubtful as to the kind of reception I should meet with; as soon as he came up I made him acquainted with the invitation I had received, when to my surprise he at once declined to avail himself of it; however, after some importunity on the part of the lady and myself he was prevailed upon. We accordingly entered a room on the first floor very handsomely furnished, and had not been long seated before Miss Henman, under some trifling excuse, retired and shortly after returned, ushering in a tall, thin-faced damsel of her acquaintance, who she stated lived on the second floor, and who was consigned to the care of my friend, under the name of Miss Clarke; we had not enjoyed the society of our new acquaintance very long, before one of them let slip some hints that she was not much an admirer of dry conversation, and suggested that a little of the juice of the grape would enliven the various subjects we were descanting upon. This appeal to our generosity was sure to be responded to, and in a trice the bottle was introduced; as the glass passed round, we became more and more animated and enamoured of each other. The ladies perceiving by our accent that we were recent importations from the Emerald Isle, took both myself and friend on the weak side, and launched forth into a lofty panegyric upon Irishmen in general, whom they designated as being gallant,

open-minded, and generous in the extreme; this eulogium on the national character of our countrymen made us far from being dissatisfied with our companions, on the contrary, Wheeler, who was more enthusiastic in encouraging these hyperbole compliments than myself, quaffed an additional glass to each flattering expression, until he began to manifest symptoms of inebriation; when he dozed off, and gradually fell into a profound sleep; I endeavoured to rally him, but without effect. During the oblivion of my friend I exerted myself to supply the chasms in the conversation, till it was necessary that the bottle should be replenished; this was soon done, and the circling glass inspired us with vivacity for a short time longer; but our spirits gradually evaporated, and the conversation was interrupted by frequent yawnings and symptoms of drowsiness in my companions; for my own part, I was fast following the example of my friend, when I imagined I heard the ladies whispering together; this aroused me a little, and caused me for the first time to be rather suspicious of the company we had got into, and, as a matter of precaution, I took an opportunity, when I thought they were not observing me, of slipping nine sovereigns, which remained from Mr. Millard's gift, into one of my stockings. In this fancied security, I yielded to the stupor that oppressed me and was soon in a profound sleep.

In this state of utter insensibility myself and

Wheeler continued until we were aroused by the landlady, who entered the room and desired to know if we intended to take up our quarters there for the night? This interrogatory was responded to by a few yawns and expressions of dissatisfaction at being so unceremoniously disturbed. Having been thus aroused, we looked around for our fair companions; but the landlady, anticipating what was passing in our minds, gave us to understand that they had left an hour or two previously, having given especial directions that our slumbers should not on any account be broken in upon; and, in answer to our further inquiries, she informed us that she knew nothing more about them than that they occasionally frequented her house. A word to the wise, they say, is enough; and no doubt was left upon our minds as to the real character of the house into which we had been inveigled. Upon making this discovery, in a hurried manner we proceeded to examine if our money was secure; scarcely had my companion thrust his hands into his pockets, than he changed colour, and exclaimed with a rueful countenance, "Blood and 'ounds, Fagg, my money is all gone, I am ruined for ever!" This sudden exclamation by no means astounded me; but instinctively applying my hand to my leg, I found it quite bare; I looked around with much concern for my stocking, and soon espied it on the carpet, turned inside out, and emptied of its contents. My grief at making this discovery may be

readily imagined; but mine was nothing compared to that of my friend, who for awhile appeared inconsolable for his loss, which amounted to fifty pounds, notwithstanding that I did all that possibly lay in my power to assuage his sorrow.—The landlady, who happened to be present at this scene, appeared to enjoy the joke, which added considerably to our mortification, and I verily believe, had not her sex protected her, Wheeler would have taken summary vengeance upon her; he, however, threatened to have her taken before the magistrate, and punished as an accessory before the fact, and as the keeper of a disorderly house. This language was far from being palatable to the mistress, who hallooed out as loud as she could bawl for Jack and Jerry! when, almost in an instant, two stout, ill-looking fellows made their appearance and, without deigning to inquire into the cause of our contention, ejected myself and companion into the street without much ceremony.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that we should put up with our loss rather than run the risk of an exposure. On the way to our lodgings mutual recriminations passed between us, my friend attributing his loss solely to me, while I pleaded, *Nemo omnibus horis sapit*; the truth of which, Wheeler observed, we had truly experienced.

Having now arrived at the tavern, I repaired to my portmanteau, which I unlocked, and found

the twenty pounds secure which I had received from my parents on starting, half of which I tendered to my friend, who seemed penetrated with this act of generosity, but declined to accept it, saying he should for the present appoint me his banker. After a short interval Wheeler retired to his bedroom, as I imagined for the night, but had not been long absent before he returned in a very different temper from what he had been in but a few minutes previously, and began to dance and caper about in a most extravagant manner, as if he had taken leave of his senses, and it was some time before he could be brought to a proper equilibrium; on inquiring into the cause of this sudden change of temperament, my friend informed me that he was fifty pounds better off than he had any idea of, his mother having presented him with a bank note for that sum to meet any casual expences that might arise, which he had not recollectcd until that instant, and which he produced; this unexpected piece of good news administered no less pleasure to him than it did to me, who was unconsciously the cause of his loss as well as my own.

After venting forth innumerable imprecations on the frail pair by whom we had been duped, we mutually agreed that we had had enough of Bristol, and retired to rest at a late hour with a resolution to depart the next morning by the first coach.

CHAPTER XV.

Next morning after breakfasting and discharging our bill, we proceeded directly to the coach office, where we mounted the coach and early on the following day we found ourselves in the far-famed city of London. It is here every thing may be seen that can delight the eye and gladden the heart of those who have wherewithal to procure the good things of this life, but without a little ready cash to meet contingencies it is the worst place possible for a human being to set his foot in; for every person here is so absorbed with his own affairs that he seldom troubles himself about those of his neighbour. There is not a city in Europe in which the vast disproportions in the various grades of society are so strikingly pourtrayed as in this metropolis: elegant mansions, splendid equipages, and superbly attired people, are every where to be seen; but let a stranger turn his back upon this grand display for a while, and enter some of the back lanes and alleys, he will there behold a different race of beings, dragging on a miserable and half-famished existence, and who look more like shadows raised from the grave than human beings living in a country overflowing with every necessary for the comfort and happiness of man; and whom he might be led to imagine were in nowise

comprehended within the scheme of Divine Providence. Well has it been observed, "that the nakedness of the indigent might be clothed from the trimmings of the vain."

In company with Wheeler I visited the principal attractions of the metropolis, and the day fixed for his departure having arrived, we parted after an exchange of best wishes for each other's future welfare; for my part, I felt overwhelmed with sorrow as the coach which conveyed my friend disappeared from my view. I leaned for some time against a lamp-post for support, and was only aroused from my lethargy, with the blowing of a horn by the guard of one of the evening coaches that chanced to pass at that moment, the sound of which operated powerfully on my bewildered senses, for I fancied he sounded these words, "Arise, Fagg; and become a great lawyer!" I listened to the notes of the horn until they died away, the sounds appeared to me the most harmonious that I had ever heard.—"What!" said I to myself, starting as if I had been aroused from a dream, "were the witch's words prophetic? am I indeed destined to become a great lawyer? or am I labouring under some false delusion?" It is needless to say that the latter notion prevailed, though I confess I could not altogether dismiss from my mind a hope that, peradventure, I might one day or other become; what I had long aspired to be, a great legal luminary. But when I reflected

upon the cheerless and dismal prospects by which I was surrounded, with but little money and no friends, it appeared next to insanity to entertain for a moment such a chimerical idea. Full of these conflicting notions, I retraced my steps to the inn where I lodged, and retired to rest fully impressed with my friendless and forlorn condition. Next morning after breakfast I sallied forth in quest of employment, but without success, and continued this course for several days, returning at night quite depressed in spirits, and not a little displeased with myself and the world.

One day I entered a coffee shop to take some refreshment, and had scarcely taken my seat when a man of very respectable appearance entered, and placed himself in the box before me; we soon fell into conversation, and after exhausting the coffee house topics of the day, the stranger asked me if I was not a native of Ireland? On my answering in the affirmative, he gave me to understand that his grandmother was a native of that country, and that he was very much biased in favour of its inhabitants; that he never was more delighted than when in the company of Irishmen, whom he ennobled as warm-hearted and zealous in their attachments. These adulatory remarks on the attributes of my countrymen, with many others equally flattering, prepossessed me so much in favour of the speaker, that I without hesitation unfolded

to him every circumstance connected with myself, and my present unfavourable prospects; he expressed much concern for the state in which I was placed, and after a pause of a few minutes' duration, began in this manner, "Well, well, it is very unfortunate that we are not better acquainted, as I should not hesitate to appoint you to a situation which is now in my gift, in one of the departments in Somerset House, it was only yesterday the clerk who filled it was discharged for embezzlement; I am therefore very cautious, as you may suppose, as to the person I shall select as his successor; it is truly unfortunate that we know so little of each other, otherwise I should be glad to give you the preference, as I am inclined to think you would faithfully discharge its duties." I assured the stranger (whose name was Watson) with much earnestness, that the most implicit reliance might be placed in my integrity and honour, and rather than be guilty of any thing mean or dishonourable, I would sacrifice my life. "Ay, ay," said Mr. Watson, "it is all very well to say so, but what guarantee have I that you will act up to your word?" "It is true," I rejoined, "you have no other guarantee than my verbal promise, but you may depend upon its strict fulfilment." "Well, well," he retorted, "I shall meet you here again to-morrow about the same time, and in the interim I shall decide whether you shall have the appointment or a friend who has very much importuned me

for it." After giving vent to his feelings for some time in this manner, he paused, and placing his hand on his head, as if a sudden thought had struck him, observed, "I am just about to retire to a public-house where I generally spend an idle hour or two in the evening over a pipe and a glass of whatever comes in the way, and if you can bear me company for a short time we shall talk matters further." As I was already prepossessed in favour of my new acquaintance, whom I looked upon as a person of integrity and good nature, it is scarcely necessary to remark that I at once embraced the invitation. After a few minutes' walk we entered a public-house off the Strand, and having taken our seats in the parlour my companion was recognized by some of the persons assembled, who were discussing with the greatest gravity the affairs of the nation, in which those of Ireland formed no inconsiderable feature. During the evening one testy old gentleman who sat in the corner, smoking his pipe and quaffing deep potations, complained of the great influx of people from the latter kingdom, to the manifest injury of the productive classes of this country; an evil which he asserted could only be counteracted by a good system of poor laws. I contended that no man should be compelled to contribute to the support of another, whether deserving or not, but that the relief of his unfortunate or indigent fellow-creature should be a voluntary act, and free from legislative enact-

ment; and that the poor laws which were intended for the relief of the aged and infirm were frequently held out as a species of premium to the able-bodied to become indolent and improvident. This view of the subject was warmly espoused by Mr. Watson, who remarked that he fully concurred in the justness of my observations, and added that it was natural to expect that enterprising young men would be attracted to the place where industry was encouraged, and talent rewarded. On the other hand, several of the company espoused the opinion of my adversary; but, it getting late, they gradually dispersed without coming to any conclusion.

On being left alone with Mr. Watson, he turned the conversation to the snares that young and inexperienced people are exposed to in the metropolis, pointed out some of the innumerable tricks that are daily practised upon the unwary, and warned me of them with so much earnestness and good nature, that I considered it a fortunate circumstance that threw me in his way. After we had pushed the glass about for some time, I put my hand in my pocket and drew out my money, which consisted of a ten pound note and three sovereigns. Mr. Watson, on perceiving this, expressed his surprise that I should carry my money loosely in my pocket, and asked if I did not use a purse; on my answering in the negative he pulled one from his pocket and begged my acceptance of it, at the same time ob-

serving, that with my permission he would place the balance of the money, (amounting to twelve pounds, having changed one of the sovereigns to pay the reckoning) in the purse. This offer appeared to me so considerate that I did not hesitate to hand him the money, which I supposed he had deposited in the purse: we parted immediately afterwards, under an engagement to meet again the next day at the place appointed.

I returned to my inn, and retired to bed rather elated with my opening prospects. Next morning when I arose, words are inadequate to depict my agitation and surprise on discovering that my money had been abstracted by Watson, and a flush note and two farthings substituted in its stead. I threw myself upon the bed in a state of mind bordering upon distraction, alternately bewailing my loss, cursing my own credulity and the scoundrel that had plundered me. After some time spent in this manner, I hastened to the coffee house, determined on chastising the villain by whom I had been robbed, but could glean no intelligence respecting him; in the evening I repaired to the public house, but with no better success. I roamed through the streets during the rest of the day in an agony of despair and retired to bed quite gloomy and disconsolate; as I lay down I began to ruminate in the following strain:—Here I am, robbed of my all by a designing and unprincipled scoundrel, of whose extravagant flattery I have been made the dupe;

in a strange place, without a friend to whom I can apply for advice or assistance; had I taken the counsel of my parents I should have avoided all this; but alas! how obstinate and perverse has been my conduct: rather, however, will I perish than return home under these degrading circumstances.—I continued in this melancholy strain until overpowered by sleep.

Having breakfasted the next morning, I paid my bill for the preceding night, and found myself in possession of only seven shillings and sixpence; with this sum at my command I proceeded into the street, and soon unconsciously found myself in Fetter Lane; I had not gone far before I espied a bill in a window announcing, "*Single men taken in and done for.*" The singularity of this announcement occasioned me to pause before the house; a private lodging was what I had been in quest of ever since the departure of my friend Wheeler, but I deferred taking one from day to day in the hope that I should succeed in obtaining a situation, when I purposed getting finally fixed and thereby save the trouble of a second removal; however I was now brought to such an extremity that it could not be delayed any longer. I entered the house and made known the object of my visit to an antiquated dame, by whom I was piloted to a room on the second floor, denominated the "two pair back," the furniture of which consisted of a flock bed and two or three rush-bottomed chairs, con-

siderably the worse for wear. To this apartment I became tenant at three shillings and sixpence per week, which the landlady informed me was the rent paid by my predecessor, who she said was a poet. My recent adventure with Watson being uppermost in my mind, induced me to ask the good woman what she meant by single men being "done for." She replied that sometimes her lodgers wished to have breakfast got for them, or a chop or steak cooked, or little matters of that kind, for which she made but a trifling extra charge; this explanation satisfied my scruples and I took possession that night, having previously conveyed my luggage thither, which was by no means an herculean task.

For several days I went forth from this dreary abode in the most agonized state of mind every morning, in the hope that some favourable circumstance might turn up, and returned again in the evening in the same dejected and disappointed temper. I had been nearly a fortnight in the house without having any communication with any of its inmates except Mrs. Farley, my landlady, with whom one morning, whilst giving instructions respecting my linen, which stood in need of the operations of the washerwoman, I fell into conversation, in the course of which she gave me to understand that she was a laundress herself, and in the habit of attending to chambers, and that her husband was one of the Temple porters. Finding her very communicative, I

imparted to her some particulars relative to myself, whereupon she invited me to breakfast, a favour I most readily accepted, and sat down with herself and spouse, who was a dapper little man with a face as capacious as a full moon. Having apprised him that I was bred to the profession of the law and out of employ, I expressed a hope that if he should hear of any thing that would be likely to suit me, he would keep me in his recollection. Mr. Farley, who was a most loquacious personage, held out but slender hopes to me of success, by observing that "there were a great number of young men connected with the law out of employ, and that for his own part he could not form the most remote idea how half of them lived; indeed," he continued, "you could not have been out in a worse time than the present, the long vacation drawing near, and instead of additional hands being employed, it is more probable that a great many will be got rid of." At this piece of dispiriting intelligence I felt extremely chagrined, and should have been much more gratified had he kept his opinion to himself. After breakfast I departed from the house, quite regardless of the direction I took; lost in the contemplation of my forlorn and destitute condition, having pledged my trowsers some days previously for a few shillings, the last of which I had parted with that morning, without the smallest prospect of my finances being replenished.

CHAPTER XVI.

Without knowing whether I was going, in a state of indescribable perplexity and gloom I wandered through the city until I found myself near a coach office in Gracechurch-street, and was aroused from my melancholy by some person calling out, "Hollo, Fagg, is that you?" I turned in the direction from whence I thought the voice proceeded, but could not recognize any person whose features were familiar to me, and was about moving off when the same voice bawled out somewhat louder, "I say, Fagg, my boy, how are you?" I turned round and surveyed attentively the passengers on the outside of the coach, which was just about starting, when I observed one whose face I thought I knew, but could not bring to my recollection where I had seen him; I stared at him for some time without uttering a word, until the stranger relieved me from suspense by exclaiming "Zounds! Fagg, has a few years made such a vast alteration in thee that you do not remember your old friend Jenks?" Almost doubting my senses, I replied, "Is it possible that I behold thy old school-fellow Jenks?" "Ay, ay," he answered, "the very identical person." After this mutual recognition, which was followed by a hearty shake of the hand, my friend gave me to understand

that he was about visiting Greenwich fair; and as the coach would start in a very few minutes, he could not say all that he desired in the interim, and requested me to favour him with my company thither; this invitation I at first declined, giving him to understand in a low whisper that my exchequer was not adequate to the incidental expenses. This objection was soon overruled by Jenks, who told me not to trouble myself about expenses, as it would go hard with him if he could not furnish the needful supplies for one day. Further solicitation was useless, I therefore ascended the coach, and seated myself by the side of my friend, and was soon engaged with him in the discussion of our school-boy freaks, particularly the step-ladder affair, at which he laughed heartily. In a short time we found ourselves on the road to Greenwich.

This sudden and unexpected meeting tended to dissipate in a great measure my melancholy thoughts and reflections, to which the novelty of the scene contributed not a little. As we proceeded on our journey each side of the road was thronged with pedestrians of both sexes and of every rank and station, from the first rate swell down to the itinerant dealer in hot codlins; as well as the fashionable belle who endeavours to supply by art what nature has denied, decorated in superfluous flounces, down to the scullery maid tossed out in her Sunday finery; on the road were to be seen carriages of various sorts

and sizes, conveying multitudes to the great scene of attraction, whose cheerful smiles fully testified their inward satisfaction; now and then a miserable donkey might be seen dragging three or four fishwives or greengrocers' wives in crazy vehicles, not unfrequently treating them with a spill, or break-down; along the road were numerous swings well filled with customers, who seemed to set at nought every thing in the shape of danger; while apart from these might be seen a loving couple enjoying the refreshment of a glass or two of curds and whey, the gentleman dressed out in his gayest attire, while the lady's white dress without speck or spot seemed to challenge competition; in a word, the scene was altogether so animating and diversified, that I felt highly gratified. Having arrived at the termination of our journey we alighted, and I proceeded in company with Jenks to Greenwich Park, in every part of which were congregated together merry groups engaged in various amusements, of which a pastime called kiss-in-the-ring formed not the least conspicuous; apart from these on the rising ground might be seen groups of both sexes racing down a steep hill with fearful velocity, and whose speed is not unfrequently rewarded by innumerable sprains and contusions; still further on you behold a man whose garb and weather-beaten visage at once attest his calling, and who will not fail to invite you to view through his telescope the surrounding sce-

very; scarcely have you complied with his pressing invitation than your attention is particularly directed to Greenwich Hospital, that noble pile, no less conspicuous for its ornament than for its utility, and which reflects the highest credit on the country, affording as it does an asylum for the shattered and debilitated frames of her hardy and intrepid sons, whose youth and vigour have been devoted to her service; a little further on and you come in contact with the thimble-rig gentry, who by volubility of tongue and dexterity of hand, are transferring the cash from the pockets of their wondering auditors into their own; you next fall in with parties of the gipsy tribe actively engaged in their vocation of unfolding futurity to the credulous and unwary.

Returning from the park we visited the fair; here again the grand system of trickery and deception is carried to an incredible extent. Here harlequin and columbine by their tricks, gambols and low buffoonery, and the cows with patched cheeks, daubed foreheads, and immense whiskers, with their broad grimace, frightful contortions, and unbridled slang and gabble, divert the lookers on, while their confederates are exerting all their faculties to fleece the astonished and gaping multitude; here Richardson and his celebrated troop might be seen brandishing their battle-axes and exhibiting amazing feats, as a sample of the performances within, to witness which countless numbers ascend the temporary

platform ; here Wembwell's spacious menagerie of wild as well as tame animals invites the gaping crowd, as the most rare and splendid collection in Europe, and the prowess of the lion and the docility of the elephant are extolled in the most exaggerated terms ; on the other side were innumerable booths, containing dwarfs, giants, children with two heads, women without tongues, and other monstrosities of nature ; besides a multifarious variety of minor exhibitions, forming such a heterogeneous mixture as can scarcely be imagined : the antics, mimicry, low jests, and ribald language of the various showmen were as diversified as their motley habiliments, and their vociferous exertions to attract customers, aided by the springing of rattles, blowing of trumpets, beating of drums, ringing of enormous bells, thundering on sonorous gongs, and hammering away on iron pots, kettles, and frying-pans, produced a scene of confusion and a horrible din and uproar almost sufficient to awaken the dead in their graves.

As the night advanced we entered a splendid booth, beautifully illuminated with thousands of variegated lamps, hanging in festoons round the sides and at the upper end arranged to represent a most brilliant Crown and Anchor, that being the designation by which this booth was distinguished ; this place is chiefly devoted to the amusement of dancing, and the sprightly strains of several bands of music inspired the votaries of

that exhilarating pastime, which was kept up with great spirit by hundreds of both sexes till long after midnight, when it became the scene of the most shameless profligacy and disgusting blackguardism.

My mind was so intently absorbed in the contemplation of these novel scenes, and in reflections on their contaminating influence on the minds of young people, more particularly females, who were inconsiderately drawn into their vortex, that I missed my friend Jenks in the crowd; to add to my mortification, not having sufficient funds to pay the coach fare to town, I was compelled to join the pedestrians, and did not reach my lodgings until the morning was far advanced; however, being very much fatigued I laid down to rest, sadly chagrined at the casual circumstance which had separated me from my companion.

It was nearly noon before I awoke; I dressed myself and went forth into the street, uncertain which way to direct my course, or how to procure my next meal, until I fortunately recollected that Jenks, while on the coach, had presented me with his card; I hastily thrust my hands into my pockets and fortunately found it. I immediately proceeded according to the direction thereon, and to my unspeakable pleasure found my friend in a stationer's shop in the Blackfriars Road; my reception was as warm and as friendly as could well be expected, dinner was

ordered to be got ready without delay. We had scarcely sat down before the dinner was brought in by a tall comely woman, whom he introduced to me as his spouse, and whose manners and behaviour I found very agreeable. After an excellent dinner, which was enlivened by the jocularity of my friend, Mrs. Jenks having retired and left us together, I commenced the conversation by recurring to my departure from the school, and inquired of my friend how he had proceeded to attain his present situation. He observed that my curiosity should be gratified, and that if the detail would not be too tedious he would give me a concise account of his career from the time of our separation. On signifying that so far from his account being tedious, I should be highly gratified by hearing it, he proceeded as narrated in the following chapter.

CHAPTER XVII.

"My father as you are aware was a slater, and not having constant employ, was compelled to place me with a gentleman in the capacity of *valet de chambre*, in the hope that from my small earnings he would derive some assistance in bringing up the younger branches of the family. I continued in this menial situation for some time, but it by no means accorded with my

feelings, and I therefore determined to relinquish it as soon as an opportunity offered. One day having accidentally met an acquaintance, who was a sailor on board one of the packets which ply between Waterford and Liverpool, I communicated to him my antipathy to my situation, and my desire to see the world; he generously promised to procure me a passage gratis to the latter place. It is scarcely necessary to observe that I embraced the offer thus made with avidity, and packing up my scanty wardrobe, I took a hasty farewell of my family and friends, and set out for Waterford in company with my companion; in a few days I embarked on board the packet, and after a quick passage safely arrived in Liverpool, from thence I set out on foot for London where I reached after a journey of three days. Here I wandered about for some weeks in search of employment, but without success; in the mean while I had spent all my money, and disposed of every article upon which I could raise any to meet my daily necessities; and soon found myself reduced to all the horrors of starvation, without the most distant prospect of averting it. I continued in this state for some time, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, without either food or raiment, and was frequently compelled to lay my wearied limbs under some archway, or at the step of some door; often did I contemplate the perpetration of the horrible crime of suicide as the

only means of terminating my earthly sufferings, but kind Providence invariably interposed and prevented me from committing so rash an act. One night in particular, I was so exhausted by fatigue and hunger, that I laid myself down at the steps of this house, unable to proceed further: my moans attracted the attention of the kind-hearted man who then occupied it, and he, on being made acquainted with my forlorn condition, had me brought in, and humanely directed proper nourishment to be administered to me at intervals, until I gradually recovered. My good benefactor, not content with what he had done, took me into his employ. Stimulated by a sense of gratitude for his benevolence, I resolved to leave nothing undone to prove myself worthy of the kindness he had manifested towards me, and so far succeeded by my diligence, sobriety, and attention, that on his decease, which occurred about twelve months ago, I found he had left me a legacy of fifty pounds, as a token of his unequivocal approbation of my conduct. His widow, having been left in possession of the house and stock in trade, besides some funded property, continued me in the management of the business for some time, and has recently become my wife; so that fortune seems now disposed to make amends in some measure for her former desertion of me."

During the relation of my friend I felt sensibly touched with his sufferings and not a little pleas-

ed at their alleviation. Jenks now desired in his turn to know the particulars of my fortune; in this I gratified him by recapitulating the preceding events, at which he was strongly affected, and we could not refrain from commiserating each other on our mutual misfortunes. We did not separate until late, and not before I had promised my friend to review my visit on the following day, who generously slipped a sovereign into my hand, observing that I could return it when fortune favoured me: I expressed my thanks to him for this advance, and promised to repay it the very first opportunity.

Next morning I entered a coffee-house to take my breakfast and digest the news of the day; having carefully inspected the advertisement part of the broad sheet, which was to me the most interesting portion of it, I noticed a vacancy for a copying clerk in an attorney's office at the west end of the town, I procured the necessary utensils, and soon penned what I considered a suitable answer; that no time should be lost in its delivery I resolved to be the bearer of it myself, and set out on my errand. Not being yet well acquainted with town, on my way back I wandered into Soho Square; seeing a number of well-dressed persons enter a door on the western side of the square, and perceiving no obstruction, I was induced to increase the number, and soon found myself in what I afterwards learned to be the Soho Bazaar. The neatness and elegance of

the place and the various articles exhibited, as well as the pretty damsels who superintended the stalls, so much absorbed my attention that I pushed against a very fashionably attired female, whose pardon I craved for my awkwardness. The lady perceiving by my accent that I was a native of the Emerald Isle, put several questions to me respecting some Irish families of distinction, with whom she appeared to be acquainted, which I answered apparently to her satisfaction. The conversation then turned upon the different objects around us, on which we descended in a very friendly and familiar manner; on parting she presented me with her card, and gave me to understand that if I was likely to continue in town for any time, she would be happy to see me when my other engagements would permit; I thanked her for the invitation, of which I promised to avail myself. I secretly chuckled at this piece of good luck, which I hoped to turn to some account, and watched her movements with much concern till she quitted the bazaar, but my surprise may be readily imagined, when I beheld her enter a very handsome phaeton drawn by a pair of greys, and drove off in true aristocratic style; she had no sooner disappeared from my view than I eagerly examined her card, which was inscribed "Lady C——, Portman Square." My joy on reading this was indescribable; already I anticipated the fulfilment of the prognostications of my friend Wheeler and my fortune.

made; on the other hand I reflected that, should I have misconstrued her ladyship's intentions and be disappointed in my expectations, I could not be much worse off than I was at present.

These meditations occupied my mind until I reached my lodgings, from whence I proceeded directly to the house of Jenks, to whom I related the circumstance: he seemed to think that her ladyship had taken one of those strange fancies that people sometimes do upon a very slight acquaintance, and drew the most favourable inference from the invitation, and strongly recommended that I should not let so fortunate an opportunity escape. Upon this suggestion I intimated to my friend that a genteel appearance was of the first consideration, and that on the present occasion the services of one of my father's calling would be very acceptable. Jenks at once took the hint, and introduced me that very day to his tailor, who supplied me with a suit of clothes made, as the artist declared, "in the first style of fashion."

Having thus been enabled to assume the external appearance of a gentleman, I determined to pay her ladyship a visit, and accordingly proceeded to her residence. The door was opened by a servant dressed in gold lace livery, who desired to know my pleasure; which I signified by expressing a desire to see her ladyship. "Pray," said he, "what is the nature of your business?" I retorted rather peevishly, that it was not ne-

cessary that he should be in possession of it.—“Perhaps then,” said he, “you will favour me with your card.” “That you shall have,” I replied, “provided I have got one about me.” I fumbled in my pockets, as if endeavouring to procure one, but to no purpose; and for the best of all reasons, because I never had any. After a short pause, I gave him to understand that I had forgotten my card case, but if he announced to her ladyship the name of Fagg, it would answer equally as well. “Fagg, did you say, sir?” interrogated this presumptuous lackey; I answered in the affirmative in rather a surly tone; upon this he went off, muttering in an ironical manner the name “Fagg, Fagg,” as he went along, which seemed greatly to amuse him; in a very short time he returned again, and desired me in a very submissive tone to follow him; I unhesitatingly complied, and after ascending one pair of stairs, was ushered into the presence of her ladyship, who, being alone, received me in a most courteous manner. I apologized to her ladyship for the liberty I had taken in accordance with her ladyship’s kind invitation. Lady C——— desired me not to stand upon ceremony, and expressed much happiness at seeing me; our conversation, which at first was formal and reserved, gradually grew more familiar as we proceeded, until it was interrupted by a young lady of most engaging appearance entering the room, who was about to withdraw when she perceived me; but

being desired by her ladyship to approach, she advanced and, having made her obeisance to me, gave her mamma to understand that she was quite ready. Her ladyship no sooner received this intimation, than, rising from her seat, she informed me that they were just about taking an airing in the park for an hour or so, and if I could favour her with my company to dinner she should be most happy; an invitation which I readily accepted.

Having taken leave for the present, I returned directly to the house of my friend, and communicated to him the result of my visit; he was no less delighted than myself at my favourable prospects. The rest of the day was devoted to setting off my person to the best advantage, and, vanity apart, I made no despicable figure. As the time drew nigh, I set out for her ladyship's mansion, and arrived there exactly at the hour fixed; on my name being announced, I was escorted to the dining room, where her ladyship and daughter were waiting my arrival; having expressed my apprehensions lest I should have detained them, we sat down to an excellent dinner. As it would be superfluous to describe what it consisted of, let it suffice that there was every thing the most fastidious epicure could desire, and in divers glasses of sparkling champagne I drank to her ladyship's better acquaintance. Miss C— said but very little during the time that she sat at dinner, and that little only when spoken to;

she seemed to labour under that distant and reserved manner which people generally experience on a first acquaintance. After this, tea and supper followed; in a word, during the time that I remained, I feasted as sumptuously as any rational creature could desire. Her ladyship having at length signified her pleasure that her daughter should retire to rest, I arose too for that purpose, it getting rather late, but seeing me inclined to retire too, she desired I should resume my seat, with which I complied. Her ladyship not being now restrained by the presence of a third party, in a very friendly manner entered into conversation with me, by inquiring how long I had been in London, and as to whether my stay was temporary or permanent; having satisfied her in these particulars, and detailed such others as I supposed would be likely to excite her sympathy, she expressed herself much interested in my future welfare, and conducted herself in such a manner as to leave no doubt on my mind that I had made considerable progress towards securing her good opinion. I was not mistaken in this conjecture, for her ladyship taking me by the hand, which she gently pressed, confessed that she felt a strong bias in my favour, and that she would willingly promote my happiness as far as lay in her power; I acknowledged this declaration in the most grateful expressions. After a short pause she handed me a latch key, saying, "Take this, at the rear of this house is

a private entrance, the door of which it will unlock; be there exactly as the clock strikes twelve and I shall be sure to meet you and conduct you hither; depart hence at once, and be punctual to the time fixed. I took my leave, promising implicitly to follow her directions. Two lackeys bowed me out, and I returned their civilities in the same way, not having any thing more substantial to bestow.

When I got into the street I was at a loss how to dispose of myself for an hour, the clock having but just struck eleven; during this time I perambulated the streets, and various were my surmises as to the ambiguous behaviour of her ladyship, as she had studiously avoided any allusion to herself or family connections. Sometimes I imagined that she had some design in contemplation into which she hoped to entrap me; and sometimes I fancied that from the circumstance of her having entrusted me with the key, and the friendly manner in which she had expressed herself, she had inclinations towards me which she wished to remain a mystery to every one except ourselves: amid these conflicting ideas the appointed hour arrived. I repaired to the rear of the house, as I imagined, and applying the key to the lock of the door made repeated attempts to unlock it, but without success; at length, losing my patience at the idea of being thus baulked, I applied my shoulder to the door and forced it open; scarcely had I done so ere two

fellows in livery pushed forward and made me their prisoner, and, almost in the same breath, accused me of an intention to commit a burglary. I protested my innocence, and that I had never even thought of such a thing; but in vain; they detained me until a watchman arrived. In the interim I was surrounded by several menials who, after successively looking me full in the face, exclaimed, "Who would have thought it!" My blood boiled with indignation at this impertinence, and I should have taken summary vengeance upon some of those present, had not the guardian of the night made his appearance, between whom and one of the servants I was escorted to the watch-house. On the way thither, reflecting on the disgrace attending an ordeal before a magistrate, though conscious of my innocence, the bare idea of the accusation enraged me to such a degree that I struck my conductors, right and left, back-handed blows so suddenly and with such force that I levelled them both to the ground, and ran off as fast as my legs could carry me, closely pursued by the other servant, who kept up an uninterrupted cry after me, of "Stop thief! Stop thief!" I was gaining ground on my pursuer and exulting in the prospect of my escape, when chancing to tread on a piece of orange peel my foot slipped and I fell to the ground; I was, by this trifling accident, easily recaptured and taken to the lock-up room without any further trouble to my captors: the charge

against me having been recorded I was consigned to safe custody for the night.

Being now left alone I began to ruminate on my condition—Here I am, said I, incarcerated in an infernal dungeon, the abode of thieves and characters of the worst description, charged with a crime which I never committed nor even contemplated; entrapped by a base and designing woman, and, though innocent, the suspicious circumstances under which I was apprehended will no doubt bias the judgment of the magistrate, and I shall be committed to prison as a felon.—Distracted, and rendered desperate by these horrible forebodings, I cursed the hour of my birth, and verily believe I should that instant have terminated my earthly career had I not heard a voice exclaim, “As I live it is Fagg!” I started as if awakened from a dream, and listened for some time in anxious silence, when the same voice repeated, “I would willingly give all the wealth of London to get one glimpse of his manly countenance.” Words are inadequate to give even an imperfect description of my feelings at that instant, on recollecting the voice of Rosina Godfrey: I continued to listen, and she seemed to be engaged in earnest conversation with some one who vehemently declared her innocence of the crime she was accused of. Their conversation after this was carried on in a lower tone, and it was impossible for me to collect from it the offence they were charged with, though I conti-

nued to listen with the greatest attention, until overcome by fatigue and my agitated feelings I fell into a profound sleep.. I did not awake till aroused by one of the constables, who told me to follow him ; I instantly obeyed, and after a few minutes walk found myself for the first time of my life in the police office, Bow Street. I had not been long here before another constable entered the office with two women in custody; my agitation may be imagined on beholding one of them to be poor Rosina Godfrey. The moment she recognised me she flew into my arms, and hugged me so firmly for some time as almost to deprive me of the power of respiration, and it was only by the intervention of one of the officers that I was enabled to extricate myself from her embraces; this poor creature's affection so overcome me, that I could not refrain from shedding a tear at the recollection of days gone by. This accidental recognition, however, by no means operated in my favour.

The case being called on, I was interrogated as to my name, which I gave as Gibson; and the witnesses having been sworn, one of them deposed that he was the servant of Lord S—, that on the preceding night as he was about to retire to rest, he heard some person attempt to unlock the door at the rear of the house; that he and the coachman listened for some time, but the party finding some difficulty in unlocking the door, forced it open, and presently the

prisoner appeared, who on beholding us, endeavoured to retreat, but was captured by himself and fellow-servant; that on their way to the watch-house the prisoner struck the watchman and himself and almost stunned them, and ran off; but after shewing chase for some time, they with considerable difficulty recaptured him. This evidence was corroborated by that of the coachman, and also by the watchman as far as he was concerned. On the usual question being put to me, as to what I had to say to the charge, I assured the magistrate that I had no such intention as that imputed to me; that I went to that door by mistake for the next one, to see a female who lived there, with whom I was acquainted, and that my appearance did not much accord with that of a burglar. The sapient magistrate replied that he did not sit there to judge from appearances, but to administer the law to the very letter; that my being taken at that hour of the night, under the circumstances detailed, was extremely suspicious, to say the least of it, and that if I wished him to believe to the contrary, I should have produced the female alluded to. This I let him know I could have done had I thought it necessary, and endeavoured again to impress upon his mind that I was incapable of doing any thing dishonourable.— Upon hearing this the justice inquired if any housebreaking implements were found in my possession. On being answered in the negative,

his worship said, "I shall send you to the house of correction for a month for the attempt to commit a burglary, and another month for the assault."

This unjust judgment riveted me to the spot where I stood, deprived of all power of reflection, and I was about to be removed from the bar, when two gentlemen entered the office; one of them approaching the magistrate, in a friendly manner entered into conversation with him, till turning towards the dock where I stood, he stared at me for some time with amazement.— Whilst the stranger was gazing upon me so intently, orders were given for my removal, which were promptly obeyed, and I was taken away in a state of insensibility. What subsequently occurred I know not, but on opening my eyes I found myself in a dreary room, which I afterwards discovered to be one set apart for criminals, surrounded by ten or a dozen persons, all perfect strangers to me, but who seemed to commiserate my distressed situation; by degrees, however, I gradually revived, and had scarcely done so, before the gentleman whom I noticed in conversation with the magistrate entered the room and inquired how I was getting on; on being told that in a few minutes I should be quite well, he expressed much satisfaction. At that instant I turned my eyes towards the stranger who seemed to interest himself so much in my behalf; who, perceiving me look him full in

the face, approached and expressed much concern for me, and asked if I did not remember him. I answered, as well as I could articulate, that I could not just then recollect where and upon what occasion I had seen him. "Do not you recollect," said he, "meeting me at the house of our mutual friend Mr. Pelham?" At the mention of this name, I started up, and rubbing my eyes, inquired if he were Mr. Curzon, whom I had met there on one occasion. On his answering in the affirmative, I expressed my regret that he should have met me under such disadvantageous circumstances, and briefly informed him of the nature of the accusation against me, and of the judgment which had been pronounced. Mr. Curzon seemed so much amazed that he immediately undertook the advocacy of my cause with the justice, who was a relation of his, he retired for this purpose, and had not been long absent before he returned with directions that I should be brought before the magistrate again, for the purpose of reinvestigating the case. I was immediately escorted to the presence of his worship, who, after slightly glancing at the evidence, remarked that as there was no positive proof of my guilt, but merely circumstantial evidence, which ought always to be received with suspicion, and as his friend Mr. Curzon had borne testimony to my irreproachable character hitherto, directed that I should be immediately discharged.

Having tendered my thanks to Mr. Curzon for interceding in my behalf, I quitted the office, congratulating myself on my narrow escape, and waited outside for the purpose of learning some particulars from him respecting the family of Mr. Pelham, as well as to see Miss Godfrey, who I learnt was in custody on some charge, but who had been removed from the office, very much affected on seeing me.

I had not waited long before Mr. Curzon made his appearance, and on perceiving me, very kindly inquired as to my future intentions. I unhesitatingly informed him that I had hitherto been unsuccessful in procuring a situation, but that I was in hopes that things would soon take a more favourable turn. Upon hearing this he informed me that a friend of his, a Mr. Toler, of King's Bench Walk, Temple, had occasion for a clerk, and that he had no doubt that he should be enabled to procure the situation for me, and bade me meet him there on the following day at eleven o'clock. "In the mean while," continued Mr. Curzon, "as I partly suspect you have occasion for a little money, I beg your acceptance of these five sovereigns until you can get round a little:" but this offer I absolutely refused to accept unless considered as a loan, which I promised to repay at the earliest opportunity. Understanding that he corresponded with the family of Mr. Pelham, I obtained his solemn promise that he would not mention this matter, nor the

circumstances that had transpired before the magistrate, which, though merely the result of a mistake, might operate to my prejudice.

During our conversation Rosina came from the office, and waited in the street with evident impatience for its termination. The moment Mr. Curzon departed she ran up to me and held me so firmly in her embrace, that it was some minutes before I could unloose myself; these endearments afforded a good deal of mirth to those who were witnesses of the scene, to avoid whom we adjourned to a tavern, where we regaled ourselves. I took this opportunity of inquiring into her circumstances, and how long she had been in London. She informed me that after my departure from Cork she became so much depressed, that, confiding the child to the care of its nurse, she resolved on following me to London, where she had been only three weeks, and that she had never spent such a restless night as the preceding one; "the woman," she said, "with whom I have lodged since my arrival having prevailed upon me the previous evening to take a walk with her, we had scarcely got into Helborn when she accosted a gentleman who was in company with another, whom I imagined she knew; after some conversation, by the over persuasion of my landlady I was induced to enter a confectioner's shop with them; we had not been seated long before one of them charged her with having robbed him of a ten-

pound note, which he said she had handed over to me. Notwithstanding the falsity of the accusation and our protestations of innocence, we were both taken to the watch-house, and detained there all night, and I could have sworn that I heard your voice in the adjoining cell."—I interrupted her by observing that had it not been for my having overheard hers, I should in all probability have made away with myself; at this she was much affected, and unable to proceed for some time, at length she resumed,—“When we were brought before the magistrate, the gentleman who had given us in charge apologized for the injury he had done us, and admitted having found the note which he supposed had been stolen from him. We were both immediately discharged, the justice ordering our accuser to make us a satisfactory compensation for the false imprisonment; but this we indignantly rejected. I was no less delighted on obtaining my pardon than I was on hearing that you had obtained yours through the intercession of the gentleman whose friend had so falsely accused myself and companion.”

I related in my turn the disgraceful dilemma from which I so narrowly escaped, at which she seemed no less surprised; having consoled each other under our mutual misfortunes, and the singularity of the circumstances to which we were indebted for our present meeting, I did not separate from this good-natured young woman

until late, and not before I had forced her to accept two sovereigns, out of the five lent me by Mr. Curzon, towards fitting her out for a situation as governess with a family in Russell Square, whither she was to proceed on the following afternoon.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PURSUANT to appointment I repaired the next day to the chambers of Mr. Toler, in King's Bench Walk, where Mr. Curzon had previously arrived, who introduced me to that gentleman; he received me very civilly, and remarked that he had understood from his friend, that I had not been in any office in town, but that that did not much signify, that he liked my appearance and that he had no doubt I should suit. After a short pause Mr. Toler observed, "There is one point which it is proper to notice, that is, what salary would you require?" I answered, "I will leave it solely to yourself to allow me what you conceive my services will be entitled to." "I should prefer," said he, "your fixing a definite sum." This I declined a second time; whereupon he said, no doubt calculating upon my ready acquiescence, "I shall give you eight shillings per week for the present, besides perquisites, which will at all events be equal to as much

more, and if I approve of your conduct in the course of a short time I shall advance you accordingly." Recollecting the proverb that "half a loaf was better than no bread," I acceded to the terms proposed, and quitted the presence of Mr. Toler, having previously acknowledged my obligations to Mr. Curzon for having so far interested himself in my behalf; who, in return, promised to pay me a friendly visit occasionally.

On arriving at my lodgings I found two letters, one from my mother, enclosing a five-pound note; and another from my brother Darby, containing a similar sum. The letters remonstrated with me on the impolicy of continuing in London, and entreated me in the most fervent manner to return and not expose myself to further privations. These remonstrances I disregarded, and determined to run the risk of encountering additional perils rather than yield to their wishes.

On the following day my first object was to discharge my pecuniary obligations to Mr. Curzon, and then to enter on the duties of my new situation, which consisted in copying manuscripts and precedents and attending to the door, shewing in my master's protégées and bottle-companions, who were much more numerous than his clients. Mr. Toler, who was a special pleader, was more a man of pleasure than a man of business, and instead of receiving an average of eight shillings a week in the shape of perqui-

sites, I had been nearly two months in my situation and received only one solitary half-crown, and not a farthing on account of my salary. As Mr. Toler slept at chambers, the first thing he did when he rose was to read the newspaper, which he did during breakfast, the duration of which repast was invariably regulated by the quantum of news which he digested at the same time; the completion of this meal used generally to bring about noon; he would then take an hour or two dressing himself, after which the brush was invariably handed to me to give him the finishing touch; this being done he would survey his boots behind and before, and having satisfied himself of their brilliant qualities, he used to visit some ordinary to partake of what suited his palate best, or, more correctly speaking, his pocket; from thence he would return to chambers to inquire if any papers had been brought, when his ears would generally be saluted with "Nothing since you left, Sir." "Well, well," he would frequently exclaim, "it is very strange and unaccountable what a falling off there is in business, it is very odd upon my word Mr. Fagg, I never was so slack as I have been since you have been with me; I begin to think that the people have at length began to get wiser, and settle their differences between themselves rather than encounter the risk and uncertainty attendant upon law suits." After giving vent to these and similar ebullitions of disap-

pointment, he would have his tea, which was no sooner over than he started off for the theatre or some other place of amusement, from whence he seldom returned until midnight.

I had now been nearly four months in my situation, and had never received a farthing on account of my weekly stipend, nor in the shape of emoluments, except the aforesaid half-crown ; having always felt a very great repugnance to be considered in the light of a dun, I deferred from day to day asking my employer to discharge the amount of my salary, in the hope that he would see the propriety of doing so without any solicitation on my part. During the greater part of this time I had been subsisting on occasional supplies from my friend Jenks, who was much disappointed at the turn my intrigue had taken, and which, after my discharge at Bow Street, I had no inclination to pursue further ; my arrears with my landlady had also accumulated so much as to make the good woman rather importunate for payment ; this circumstance compelled me to break through the reserve I had hitherto maintained on the subject and remind Mr. Toler of the amount of salary due to me, and request a settlement. He expressed his regret that it was not just then convenient, but that he expected in a few days a large sum of money, when he would with pleasure discharge the amount. I was much disappointed in the non-receipt of the money and was

driven to the necessity of resorting to Jenks for further supplies, to bring about the time when my master promised to pay me.

While things continued in this state, I was not a little surprised one morning on hearing Mr. Toler give directions to the laundress to go to her bakers and get a roll for him "on tick," as he termed it; with this request she assured him she could not comply, reminding him that she had already got to the amount of one shilling and three halfpence, and that that was the utmost extent of her credit.

I was astonished at this extraordinary discourse, not having the most remote idea that my employer was so crippled in his finances as to be unable to procure a roll without the assistance of his laundress, with whom I now longed to have some conversation, and by that means sift out the real situation of Mr. Toler. An opportunity presently offered, for my master came into the office for me to give him the finishing brush, as usual, and said, "I shall not breakfast at home this morning, Fagg, as I have to attend a consultation at counsel's chambers," and almost immediately went out. He had no sooner disappeared than I drew the laundress, with whom I had hitherto held but little communication, into a very familiar gossip, who, after many unimportant observations, proceeded in this manner: He is now gone to invite himself to breakfast with some member of the profession with whom he is ac-

quainted, not having the means to procure one for himself; he is the laughing-stock of all his companions, who secretly despise him for his meanness; when he has wearied them by his repeated visits, he teases some of them for the loan of a little tea or sugar, which he always promises to return, observing that if they should ever run short of those commodities they know where to apply; but, to crown all, he chanced to see me one day with a jug in my hand full of tea-leaves, which had been used by another gentleman whose chambers I also attend, and on learning what I had got he was actually so mean as to ask me to turn the contents of the jug into his teapot, from which he partook of his breakfast. Why," continued she, "I am almost a daily visitor at the pawnbroker's for him, and the last article I took there was *Blackskin's Commentaries*, upon which they lent a few shillings." I expressed my wonder how, in such needy circumstances, he could afford to pay for the services of a clerk.—"Pay! lor' bless you!" exclaimed the loquacious laundress, "they are very lucky who get any payment from him; why he is often without a clerk for weeks' together, but he goes out as usual and leaves the chambers to take care of themselves, with a notice wafered on the door that he is '*attending Mr. Justice So-and-so's chambers,*' or, '*waiting in such a Court;*' why, the courts that he mostly attends are some of the dark alleys about Temple Bar, where, in the back

parlours of the public houses, he may frequently be found playing at cards or tippling with such clientless scamps as himself."

My astonishment may be conjectured on hearing this sorry account of my employer, and I was not a little mortified at the improbability of receiving my arrears of salary; however I resolved to wait the expiration of the time mentioned by him before I repeated my application for payment. In the mean while I wrote again to Miss Pelham, to whom I had before written several letters expressive of my unalterable love and attachment, but received no answers; in reply to this last, I was thunderstruck one day on receiving by the post a letter in these words:

"Sir,

I desire you to desist from addressing letters to my daughter, who has not the most remote idea of committing her future destiny to one who has been convicted of burglary; therefore you had better be careful how you address yourself to her in future.

I am, &c.

Henry Pelham."

I had no sooner read this epistle, which caused me a world of uneasiness at the idea of being considered in so degraded a character by the only being in the world whom I sincerely loved, and for whose happiness I would have sacrificed my life, than I proceeded in a transport of rage to the lodgings of Mr. Curzon, fully determined on

chastising his treachery: for I had no doubt that he was my calumniator, and by this manœuvre imagined he should extinguish at once my pretensions to the hand of Miss Pelham and secure his own. On my way I procured a whip, the better to chastise his perfidy; finding, on inquiry at his residence, that he had gone out a few minutes previously, I returned home quite chagrined and addressed to him the following letter:

"Sir,

As you have thought proper to calumniate and vilify me in a manner which no man possessed of a particle of feeling or honour would be guilty of, and have designated me as a burglar to parties to whom it is unnecessary more particularly to allude, I desire that you will name some person on your behalf, on whom a friend of mine will wait, in order that you may afford me that satisfaction which a gentleman so injured has a right to demand.

I remain, &c.

M. Fagg."

I despatched this letter by one of the Temple porters, with strict injunctions to him not to return without an answer; in the mean time I repaired to the house of Jenks and related to him the whole of the circumstances. He cheerfully volunteered to act as my friend in the affair, should my opponent grant me the desired meeting. On returning to my lodgings I found a note from Curzon, as follows:

"Sir,

I am not aware of having calumniated you to any person whomsoever, and shall not descend for a moment to give you any further explanation. Had you waited upon me personally previous to your hostile message, I might perhaps have so far condescended; but after what has passed I shall not do so. I beg to refer you to Mr. Fisher, of Paper Buildings, Temple, who will receive any further communication you may feel disposed to make.

I am, &c.

Charles Curzon."

On receiving this letter I immediately forwarded it to Jenks, with a request that he would wait upon the party to whom it referred and make the necessary arrangements for a meeting, in case he should deem it necessary so to do. My friend called upon me again in the afternoon and strongly recommended a reconciliation, but finding me inexorable he went away, promising to obey my instructions. In the evening he paid me another visit, and gave me to understand that on inquiry of Mr. Fisher he was informed by that gentleman that Mr. Curzon had that very morning set out for Ireland; being far from satisfied with this information, which I thought my friend had concocted for the sake of getting rid of so disagreeable an affair, I proceeded directly to the lodgings of my adversary, where the intelligence of his departure was confirmed.

After some reflection I considered the precipitate retreat of Mr. Curzon a most fortunate circumstance; for had I encountered him I should certainly have assaulted him, and then, instead of granting me a meeting as desired, he would in all probability have caused proceedings to be instituted against me; and, in either case, circumstanced as I was, my situation would not be the most enviable.

The fumes of my rage having now evaporated I repaired to the chambers of my employer, to announce my intention of quitting his service and to obtain payment of my salary; but before I had time to communicate my design, Mr. Toler observed, that he had that instant received a letter from his friend Curzon, previous to his departure for Ireland, complaining of my insolent and presumptuous conduct, which, he said, to my superiors was an unpardonable offence. I replied with some warmth, that I never could admit of his superiority, that though I was just then labouring under some disadvantages, yet that my pretensions to the rank of a gentleman were as indisputable as those of his friend Mr. Curzon, whose cause he so warmly espoused.— My master having stared at me for some time quite astounded, bade me instantly quit his chambers, and thereby save him the disagreeable necessity of forcibly ejecting me; this threat I treated with ridicule, and dared him to its execution, and refused to move until I was paid the

amount of my salary. Without further parley he seized me by the collar of the coat, whilst, in my turn, I caught him by the cravat, which I held so firmly as to well nigh strangle him, and summoning up all my strength I threw him with considerable force to the floor; I had no sooner done this than seizing a large brief from a table, upon which several old ones were arranged to make a shew of business, I pummelled him with it about the head until his screams of "Murder! murder! help! help!" brought one of the Temple porters running into the chambers to ascertain the cause of the uproar, who could not restrain his laughter on beholding the ludicrous position of the humbled Mr. Toler. The porter, however, so far interposed between us as to prevent me from proceeding to further extremities, or I verily believe I should have sacrificed his worthless life to my indignation.

Having thus been revenged in some measure for the non-payment of my salary, I immediately quitted the chambers, lest I might be taken into custody for the assault on my employer, and proceeded directly to my lodging in Fetter Lane, which I gave up, and removed to another in Whitefriars, in order to avoid any proceedings Mr. Toler should determine on putting in force against me,

CHAPTER XIX.

WHILE I was held in terrorem by my late master, I subsisted exclusively on the bounty of my benefactor Jenks, who enabled me in some degree to avoid the bitter pangs attendant upon penury, and to exert all the energies of my mind to devise some plan by which an honest livelihood might be acquired ; for I was by no means particular as to the nature of the avocation, provided there was nothing menial connected with it.

My apprehensions of the resentment of Toler somewhat restrained me in seeking employment among the profession, but they turned out to be groundless, and in consideration of his forbearance I abstained from troubling him with respect to my salary, so that we mutually buried our differences in oblivion. Meanwhile I became acquainted with a young man of the name of Wilfred, who was clerk to a barrister residing in the Middle Temple, and an ardent admirer of the sock and buskin ; having some predilections that way myself, we soon became almost inseparable companions. His employer being by no means encumbered with business, was not very regular in his attendance at chambers, so that Wilfred had abundant leisure for the study and rehearsal of characters in the art to which he was so much attached ; in these studies I confess I too often

participated when I ought to have been occupied in endeavouring to procure more beneficial employment. Our daily custom for several days was to rehearse together a few passages from favourite dramas, after which, to enable us to attain perfection in the combat scenes, we generally practised the broad-sword exercise for about an hour. Various were the attitudes, thrusts, and parryings off, we went through in these encounters, until one day my opponent pressed me so closely, that in endeavouring to repel his attack my foot slipped and I had well nigh run him through in reality, having thrust my weapon through one of the skirts of a new coat which he had got but a few days previously, and rent it asunder. I could not restrain my laughter at this mishap, which my friend by no means relished; however, after surveying the fracture for some time, he left me for the purpose of getting his coat repaired, whilst I proceeded in quest of a situation.

Wilfred called upon me in the evening, and seemed to have recovered his wonted spirits; after telling me that he had succeeded in getting his coat admirably spliced, and swearing that he would have nothing more to do with the broad-sword exercise, he went on in this manner: "You must be aware, Fagg, that the income from my situation is totally inadequate to my support, in fact I am compelled to make frequent applications to my friends for assistance; to get rid of

this state of dependance, I have made several efforts to join a company of strolling players, but without success; since we became acquainted it has frequently occurred to my mind that if you and I were to travel into the country, we should by our performance astonish the natives, and probably reap an excellent harvest; if you approve of this project I shall most cheerfully join you in a trip, and will endeavour to procure a little cash to start with." Upon my pointing out the difficulties we should labour under for want of proper paraphernalia, as well as additional hands, Wilfred informed me that he could easily surmount those obstacles, as he had himself a prime wardrobe, at least such a one as would enable us to play some of the principal characters, and that our numbers would be augmented by the accession of a shoemaker's son of the name of Grimes, and a greengrocer's daughter named Sally Brown, both of whom had long panted for an opportunity of making their début. Visionary as this speculation was, I was induced to embrace it, in order to avoid importuning my friend Jenks, to whose unalterable kindness I was so largely indebted; Wilfred immediately undertook to wait on the other aspirants, and ascertain if they were willing and prepared to join in the adventure.

The next day Wilfred called on me in high glee and announced that he had seen Mr. Grimes and Miss Brown, who had readily fallen in with his

project, and that, in order to arrange their plans in a methodical manner, they were all to meet in the evening at a coffee-house in the neighbourhood : thither I repaired at the time appointed, and had the pleasure of being introduced by Wilfred to my new acquaintances. Grimes was a stout chubby lad about seventeen, whose abilities were not of the most promising order; Miss Brown was a very sprightly lass about the same age, with an agreeable countenance. The subject of our intended tour was discussed for a considerable time, and ended in a determination to meet at the same place on the following morning and set out for Barnet, where it was agreed we should make our first appearance.

At the appointed hour we met in the coffee-house, and after disposing of divers hot rolls and cups of tea and coffee, we proceeded on the road towards Barnet, each person taking such portion of the wardrobe as was appropriate to the various characters he was allotted to sustain, except Miss Brown, whose share was carried between us. The first day's journey brought us very near the town, and we took up our quarters that night at an alehouse on the road side; after breakfast on the following morning we set out, and arrived at Barnet about noon. We strolled about the town for some time, and then entered a public-house to take some refreshment. On acquainting the landlord with the nature of our business, he proposed to let us have an old back house to

perform in at the rate of five shillings a night; but, upon inspecting it, several holes were discovered in the roof which seemed to render the place totally unsuitable for the proposed object. After many ineffectual efforts to get accommodated elsewhere, we returned and apprized the landlord of our dilemma, who over-ruled our scruples as to the roof by observing, that as the weather was fine and no probability of rain the defect in the roof was quite immaterial; considering that there was something feasible in this remark, we made a virtue of necessity, and struck the bargain accordingly. Bills were without loss of time circulated about the town, announcing that a celebrated company of comedians had just arrived from London, and that in the evening the celebrated tragedy of Othello would be performed, after which a serio-comic burletta of action would be introduced. The admission with seats was to be only sixpence, and without seats only three-pence each person. Our next concern was to muster an orchestra; after much difficulty we engaged for our band, an old fiddler, an itinerant organ player, and a gladiator at the mouth-organ.

Notwithstanding some apprehensions from the weather, the sky having become overcast as the evening closed in, at the proper time our theatre was opened and the performance commenced: I was the sable hero of the night, Wilfred sustained the character of Iago, Miss Brown appeared as the gentle Desdemona, Grimes played Cas-

sio, and some boys and girls of the town, whom we admitted gratis, essayed the inferior parts. We went through the first and second acts admirably well, and were received with great applause by an audience of about fifty persons, but just as we entered the third act the rain fell in torrents, and poured through the roof on the audience so fast that those who had umbrellas were compelled to use them. This unexpected and uncontrollable circumstance put the majority of our auditors, who were unprovided for such a deluge, in such an ill humour that they became quite clamorous. In the mean time I hastened to our landlord, to request he would take prompt steps to remedy the evil: to this he promised immediate attention.

During my momentary absence their clamour had fearfully increased, so much so, that I came forward to remonstrate with them on the impropriety of their conduct, and to inform them that measures would immediately be taken to render their berths more comfortable; but in vain, my address was hailed with one loud shout of boisterous merriment, my appearance so ill according with the character I had assumed, for the rain had washed all the colour off my face in my egress to the landlord's house and return therefrom. The uproar rather increased than diminished, and the refractory portion peremptorily insisted on having their cash returned. Upon this I stepped forward a second time, to inform

them that it would be extremely inconvenient to return the money, as it had already been paid over to meet incidental expenses. This intimation was received with loud murmurs, groans, and hisses; and after many ineffectual efforts to appease them, I was moved into a paroxysm of rage, and stamping my foot upon the stage, gave them a vehement malediction, and retired without even the ceremony of a bow. This treatment exasperated them to such a degree, that they tore up the temporary seats, portions of which they flung about in all directions; one of the pieces coming in contact with the mouth organ, dashed it from the mouth of the operator, to his great terror and dismay; another missile damaged the fiddler as well as his fiddle; while a third knocked in one side of the organ. The musicians seeing matters getting serious retreated as fast as their legs could carry them. The rioters, not content with what they had done, jumped on the stage, and tore the landlord's horse cloth, which served us for a drop scene, into a thousand pieces, and then proceeded to take summary vengeance upon the unfortunate amateurs; who being apprized of their approach betook themselves to flight in different directions, each person being anxious for his own safety. I soon regained the street, but had scarcely done so, when my grotesque appearance caught the eyes of some of the enraged rabble; having no resource left but to make the best use

of my legs, I soon put them into motion, and never was a four-legged animal more closely pursued than I was upon that occasion. My terror stimulated me to more than ordinary velocity, I gained ground on my pursuers, and after a few minutes' hard run, discovered a shop door open, where I took refuge, panting for breath. The owner of the shop perceiving by my affrighted looks and strange attire that something was amiss, earnestly inquired the cause.—I informed him as concisely as I could, and implored him to save me from threatened destruction ; the good man commiserating my situation, ran to the door, the mob having now come up, and declared that not a human being should cross his threshold to do me the slightest injury, as I had not been guilty of any offence other than that of endeavouring to obtain an honest livelihood. During this parley some of the constables of the town arrived, who on being made acquainted with the particulars, remonstrated with the crowd on the cruelty and inhumanity of hunting a fellow creature as if he were a beast of prey ; this remonstrance had the desired effect, and they gradually dispersed. I then despatched a messenger for my apparel, who returned in company with Wilfred; he was delighted on hearing that I had received no bodily injury, and informed me that himself and companions had also been so fortunate as to escape unhurt, from the circumstance that the audience had all pur-

sued me, against whom their rage was principally directed.

I now intimated to Wilfred my intention to return to London, having seen sufficient to convince me of the miseries attending the wandering sons of Thespis. He urged me to continue with them, and said that neither himself nor the others were dismayed at what had taken place, but were fully determined to persevere in their career, and try their luck at the next town, where they hoped to be more successful. I congratulated my friend on his zeal and perseverance, and after an exchange of wishes for each other's welfare, I took leave of him, as well as of the shopkeeper, to whom I considered myself indebted for the preservation of my life, and without waiting to take leave of my other companions in misfortune, I withdrew from Barnet that night, venting forth curses on the playgoing folks of the town by whom I had been so alarmed, and took up my quarters in a public house about two miles distant on the road to London.

I passed the night here in a most solitary manner, reflecting on the severity of my fate, and endeavouring to contrive some probable scheme of life for the future; but to no purpose, I saw nothing but insurmountable difficulties in my way, and before I could form one feasible project I fell fast asleep.

CHAPTER XX.

IN the morning, after having paid out of the proceeds of my performance, which amounted to four shillings and threepence, for my night's lodging and breakfast, I found myself in possession of two shillings and ninepence; with this small pittance I pushed forward for the metropolis, and had not proceeded many miles before I perceived at a short distance a crowd collected. On coming up to the throng I found them attentively listening to the exhortations of a preacher, while his companion who stood close beside him held his hat. The subject of his discourse was the return of the Prodigal Son, and some portions of it were so applicable to my own situation, that I paid marked attention to him. He had no sooner finished his lecture than the assembled hearers quietly dispersed, apparently impressed with the force of his arguments.

Just as I was about to resume my journey the preacher, who during his harangue had occasionally looked earnestly at me, approached me in a very friendly manner, and remarked that he was much pleased to observe the attention with which I had listened to his exhortation. Upon this I remarked, that the subject he had so ably discussed was so appropriate to my own forlorn condition that it occasioned me to be more im-

pressed with his eloquent discourse than, under other circumstances, I might have been. This compliment paid to the oratorical powers of the preacher, led him to inquire as to my present situation and prospects, which I disclosed to him without reserve. He appeared to commiserate my destitute state, and quoted "Blessed are the poor, for they shall possess the land," and several other passages from scripture, by way of consoling me under my afflictions. This brought on a theological conversation, in which I displayed my talents to such advantage that he looked upon me with admiration, and proposed that I should join himself and companion in a preaching excursion, the profits arising from which he gave me to understand were sometimes very considerable. It is scarcely necessary to observe that sheer necessity, rather than choice, induced me to fall in with this proposition, in the hope that I should in a short time be enabled to return to the metropolis in better circumstances. The preacher, whose name was Hobbs, was by trade a shoemaker; his features were remarkably expressive, his voice was harmonious, and his declamation powerful. During our conversation Mr. Hobbs beckoned to his companion to come forward, and introduced him to me as Mr. Sykes. This man was by trade a sawyer, a stout robust-looking personage, with carotty hair, an aquiline nose, and a face slightly pitted with the small-pox; on being informed that I was about to be-

come a fellow-labourer in the vineyard, he expressed his ready acquiescence to receive me on the recommendation of his friend.

Having been thus initiated, a difficulty arose how to equip myself in a manner becoming the calling I had adopted, my apparel being by no means in accordance therewith; but this dilemma was obviated by Hobbs lending me a suit of his clothes. We had not been many days on our mission, before I discovered that my companions were merry facetious fellows, who loved a good dinner better than the Bible, and paid more attention to a pretty damsel than to the injunctions of Holy Writ, or to the enlightenment of those that sit in darkness. When we reached any town or village, our invariable practice was to seek out the religious portion of its inhabitants, on whom we levied contributions, either in good cheer, or by collecting subscriptions for some benevolent or pious purposes; by this means we fared sumptuously almost every day without any cost. Our excursions were much enlivened by the good humour of my fellow-labourers, who sang an infinite number of bacchanalian and amatory songs. In this manner two months rolled over my head almost imperceptibly; at the end of this period it was proposed by Hobbs, who was our treasurer, that when we reached Romford, from which we were only three miles distant, the supplies we had collected should be divided between us; in the propriety of this myself and Sykes readily

concurred. Having reached the town, we entered a public house close to the market place, where after regaling ourselves, we divided the spoil, amounting to five-and-twenty pounds; five of which they awarded to me as my share, while they pocketed ten pounds apiece as their portion. I remonstrated with them on this unjust distribution, and contended that I was entitled to an equal share of the fruits of our labour, but was given to understand that if I did not approve of the division I was at perfect liberty to start on my own account. Enraged at this indifference, I commented severely on their partial and unjust conduct, and told them candidly my opinion of them. This heat of mine was resented by Sykes, who reminded me how much better off I then was than when I joined them, and that I was like a great many in the world, who did not know when they were well off. Hobbs seeing that matters were likely to take a serious turn, here interposed, and assured me that whenever the next division took place it should be conducted upon the principle of share and share alike, and recommended that our differences should for the present be buried in a bowl of punch. His proposition was responded to by Sykes, and reluctantly assented to by myself; whereupon the punch was introduced, and as the glass went round all thoughts of our recent disagreement gradually vanished; a second bowl was brought in, and we all began to manifest

some slight symptoms of inebriation, when one of my companions observed that, as it was my turn to hold forth, I should at once proceed to the market place and endeavour to bring back some of the lost sheep that had strayed from the fold. Feeling myself not in a fit state to discharge the duties of my vocation, and imagining that they desired it for the purpose of having a little merriment at my expense, I refused to comply with their request; whereupon they seemed much chagrined at my obstinacy, and commented very energetically on my utter disregard to the saving of precious souls.

Whether I was convinced by the force of their arguments, or overcome by the potency of the punch, is a matter of some doubt, but certain it is that I was induced to yield, and accordingly proceeded in company with my fellow preachers to the market place, where, it being market day, a great number of people had collected from the neighbourhood. Having directed a beer-barrel to be rolled thither by the publican's boy, I ascended it, and after handing my hat to Hobbs to hold, Sykes officiating in the capacity of clerk, I commenced my discourse, and was very soon surrounded by an immense multitude, who seemed mightily amused with my harangue, which they treated with ridicule and laughter. I felt not a little incensed at this behaviour, and declaimed to them on the punishments reserved for scoffers and jeerers with such zeal, that in my

endeavours to carry conviction to their understandings, I overbalanced myself and fell from my elevated situation, to the no small diversion of the by-standers, who marked their sense of the occurrence by a boisterous shout of laughter. This was a signal for what is termed a lark, and whilst my fellow labourers were endeavouring to put me upon my legs again, Hobbs received a tremendous blow from a dead cat that laid him sprawling at my feet; Sykes in endeavouring to assist him was knocked down with a large cabbage, whilst I received a blow with a turnip that knocked me directly over my prostrate companions. We were assisted from this dilemma by some humane persons, who seeing matters getting serious, kindly interfered and protected us from further violence, and escorted us to the public house where we had been previously regaling ourselves.

We spent the remainder of the evening in censoring the indiscretion we had been guilty of by venturing among the rabble in the ambiguous state we were then in, and concluded with determining that our most prudent course would be to abandon that reprobate town, and seek more attentive audiences elsewhere.

I felt so unwell next morning that I was unable to leave my bed, and was compelled to consult an apothecary residing in the town, who visited me daily for nearly a fortnight, the fall having fractured some of my ribs. During the first

two days of my indisposition my companions were unremitting in their attendance upon me, but after that period they took their departure, observing they could not remain any longer inactive, having previously assured me they would revisit me in a few days, when they supposed I should be so far reinstated in health as to be enabled to join them.

Being now left alone I began seriously to reflect upon the accident that had befallen me, which I considered as a just judgment for the impious manner in which I had used the name of the Supreme Being, and resolved no longer to associate with men whose profligate demeanour so ill accorded with the sacred character they had assumed.

A few days after I had formed this resolution, finding myself quite recovered and enabled to go abroad, I discharged my landlord's and apothecary's bills, amounting together to four pounds fifteen shillings and two pence, out of the sum allotted to me as my proportion of the profits of our clerical labours, this left me in possession of only four shillings and ten pence, with this sum I set out on foot for London, where I arrived late at night.

CHAPTER XXI.

HAVING taken up my quarters in the neighbourhood of Saffron Hill, in consequence of the impoverished state of my finances, I roamed about for nearly a month unable to procure employ, daily visiting my friend Jenks, on whom I depended for my necessities; at the end of this time I was accosted one day in Chancery Lane, by a young man of very respectable appearance, who inquired if I had not been in the employ of Mr. Toler. I answered in the affirmative, at the same time adding that I had but recently left him. "Well," said the stranger, handing me his card, "there is a vacancy in my office, and if you can make it convenient to call to-morrow, it is very probable we shall agree." This I promised to do, and we parted.

The next day I repaired, according to the address on the card, to the chambers of Mr. Solomons, in Aldermanbury, and after waiting a short time was ushered into the presence of that gentleman, who received me very courteously. On his inquiring into the cause of my leaving Mr. Toler, I gave him some broad hints that it arose in consequence of the non-payment of my salary; upon this he intimated that he suspected that was the case, as he had lent him some money which had never been repaid. After some

further interrogations, which I answered in a satisfactory manner, I agreed with him for twelve shillings per week for the first six months, with a progressive advancement in case I gave satisfaction. From the hints that I had thrown out respecting Mr. Toler he never alluded to any reference with respect to my character, at which I was not a little pleased, for I was pretty certain that though he had been disposed to overlook the circumstances under which we parted, he had not forgotten them.

The next day I entered upon my official labours; my employer, as may be inferred from his name, was one of the Jewish persuasion, and preserved that peculiar cast of features and a considerable portion of the tact for which that people are so distinguished. His behaviour very frequently was most strange and unaccountable; sometimes he would ring the bell, and when I entered his room to receive his commands, he used to hum and hah for a minute or two, and after a vacant stare he would suddenly exclaim, "never mind, Fagg, I do not now recollect what it was I wanted you for." This he did perhaps half a dozen times during the day; sometimes he would stand kicking the toe of his boot repeatedly against the desk at which I sat, he would then burst out into a hearty laugh and walk away. This singular conduct often led me to imagine that if he was not absolutely *non compos mentis*, he was not many degrees remov-

ed therefrom. These surmises, however, a further acquaintance proved to be groundless.

The business of Mr. Solomons chiefly consisted of common law and bankruptcy business, which was managed by an old Israelite; a distant relation of the family, to whose superintendence I was turned over. No pupil could have been placed under a better tutor, as he was a perfect master of every quirk and quibble in an action at law. The duties which devolved upon me consisted principally of filling up judge's summonses and orders, and copying and serving writs, in which vocation I was always in motion; however I continued to discharge my duties without a murmur, looking forward with anxiety to the expiration of the six months when my salary was to be advanced. In the mean while my master's business daily increased through the influence of his father, who was a sheriff's officer, as well as through that of his brother, who was a broker. There never existed a trio who played into each others' hands better than they did, for no sooner did the attorney issue a writ or execution, than it was transferred to his father to levy the amount, who immediately on seizure of the defaulter's goods put the other son into possession as the broker; and thus between the three the fate of the unlucky wight who fell into their clutches may be easily conjectured.

He also derived considerable business from a brother-in-law, who was one of those professio-

nals that act as jackals to the lions of the law, and describe themselves as accountants; and though they ostensibly set forth their object to be, to assist persons in embarrassed circumstances who may not require legal aid, the unfortunate fish that gets entangled in their net will soon find himself, to use a homely phrase, "thrown out of the frying-pan into the fire."

This man, whose name was Saundy, used to be considered one of the first of his profession, and often had the affairs of five or six of the largest trading concerns in the metropolis under his control, from each of which he derived from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds a year. His usual practice was to get himself introduced to persons who were involved in difficulties, by over-trading or other causes, for the purpose of assisting them in arranging their intricate accounts; he would then make them advances of cash to meet their most pressing engagements, taking care to secure himself from any loss by a bond on the most tangible part of their property, and by his skill in negotiating an exchange of their acceptances with other parties similarly situated, he would sometimes succeed in preserving their credit until they were extricated from their embarrassments. In these more favourable cases the preparing of bonds, the suing of tardy debtors, and other legal processes, threw considerable business into Mr. Solomons' hands; but, as more generally happened, when the parties

who were cursed with Mr. Saundy's interference were plunged deeper and deeper into the gulf of insolvency, and the horrors of bankruptcy stared them full in the face, Saundy would console them with assurances of his skilful management, and advise them to go into the Gazette with as much nonchalance as you would ask a friend to step into a hackney coach to avoid a shower.— And now his harvest began : From the part he had already taken in the bankrupt's affairs, he would have sufficient influence to get Mr. Solomons appointed solicitor to the commission, who, when a plausible statement of the debts and credits of the concern was submitted to a meeting of the creditors by the accountant, with a suggestion of the benefits that would accrue to the estate by the business being carried on under proper management, could do no less in return than recommend the adoption of the measures suggested by his friend, and point him out as the most proper person to whom their superintendence could be confided.

In the complicated relations of extensive traders there are generally many disputed claims, and sometimes questions of law arise, these Saundy, in concert with his friend Solomons, would always carry to trial, regardless of the result, on the principle that if the opposed party could not pay the costs the estate could. Cases of this nature afforded abundant employment for the lawyer and his coadjutor—the one to work up the materials

procured by the other; and though the latter, for his dexterity in suborning and giving evidence on some of these occasions, has very narrowly escaped running his head against the pillory, it is probable his ill-gotten wealth will enable him to "shuffle off his mortal coil" without attaining that merited distinction.

It is needless to observe that, however large the bankrupt's estate, in such hands it would be ultimately absorbed, without any regard to the real interests of the creditors; and the misguided victim who had relied on Saundy's aid, instead of recovering his station in society as an honest but unfortunate man, would be stigmatized as a fraudulent bankrupt, and perhaps become a miserable suicide to avoid the contumely of the world.

Although the augmentation of my master's business was principally through the exertions of his friends, he was neither remiss nor insensible to his own interests. He very frequently made small advances to needy persons, on their own security payable at a short date, and if the borrower was not prepared to repay the advance on the day stipulated he was sure to have double, or perhaps treble, the loan to pay in costs; for which he usually would take a cognovit payable by instalments, and if the payments were not regularly kept up the unfortunate victim was sure to be saddled with additional costs in the shape of judgment and execution.

Whenever we were engaged in defending an action, or in the prosecution of one, Mr. Solomons was sure to find out some impediment to the success of the cause, upon which he would suggest to his client the propriety of taking the opinion of counsel, in order to see his way more clearly through the difficulties his imagination had thus started. This advice was no sooner given than it was acted upon by the unsuspecting client, who cheerfully advanced the necessary fee for the opinion; for certain it is that there are numbers in the world who will never pay until they are compelled, and would rather pay double the sum in costs than discharge a just claim in the first instance: many of my master's clients were of this description. Upon receiving the usual advance an elaborate case would be drawn up, and submitted, as the client imagined, to some eminent counsel for his opinion; the client would then be given to understand, in answer to his anxious inquiries, that the barrister before whom the case had been laid was out of town, or so pressed with an accumulation of business that the opinion could not be obtained; ultimately, however, in order to get rid of the importunity of his client, Mr. Solomons would frequently direct me to transcribe an opinion written by himself, in which he took especial care to recommend hostilities.

It would be wearisome to the reader were I to recapitulate the various manœuvres successfully

practised by Mr. Solomons ; the following transaction may be recorded as a fair sample of his impudence and dexterity :—He brought an action for a client of his named Wilkins, against a person of the name of Palmer, for the value of an ox sold to the latter, who refused to pay, alleging that he had a set-off equivalent to the sum claimed. After the cause had been sent down for trial, and considerable expense incurred, it was agreed to refer the matter in dispute to the award of Mr. Solomons, who was a mutual friend of both parties ; the wily arbitrator having first bound the litigants on oath to abide by whatever decree he should make, ordered the ox to be slaughtered and sent home to his house, and invited his contending friends to come and partake of some of it ; and, afterwards treating them with a few bottles of wine, he endeavoured to convince them that they had both been gainers by his decision. This novel mode of disposing of a law-suit was looked upon as an excellent joke, and whenever any matter became the subject of arbitration, there was nothing more common than the observation, “Take care he don’t do as Davey Solomons did.”

Notwithstanding my master’s reputation was not the most unexceptionable in the world, yet I continued to discharge my duties in such a manner as to merit his confidence and approbation, so that before the time agreed upon my salary was advanced three shillings weekly ; al-

though this sum was a very inadequate remuneration for my labours, yet, by practising a rigid frugality, I managed to subsist upon it, and also to maintain something like a respectable appearance. An adventure which happened to me at this period contributed to aid me in this respect.

Strolling out one evening after the labours of the day, I attracted the attention and became the favoured one of a cook named Betsey Austen, who resided with a family in Finsbury Square, to whom I used to repair every evening to pour out my amorous effusions, and take share of the dainty bits which the cupboard was always sure to contain, and of which I usually brought away sufficient for my dinner on the following day. I was, as may be supposed, punctual in my visits, and the welcome with which I was greeted at night cheered and lightened my toils during the day.

In this manner some months rolled over my head, until at length Betsey became importunate and insisted that I should name a certain day on which I was to make her one of the happiest of her sex; when she proposed we should start either in the green-grocery line, or open a coffee or eating house with the money which she had accumulated by her hard earnings, amounting to one hundred and fifty pounds. I feigned a ready acquiescence in the justness of her proposition, but put off the happy day from time to time under various pretexts; for, in truth, Betsey was

on the wrong side of forty, and had something of the coquette about her ; but even had it been otherwise, when I recollect that pattern of perfection, Emily Pelham, I did violence to my feelings in bestowing a moment's thought on one who was so much her inferior in fortune and every other qualification.

Betsey continued to press me for a decisive answer, and allowed me a specific time to make up my mind, at the same time hinting that if I did not within the stipulated time say yes or no, she had another in view who would marry her if she had not a shilling in the world. While this affair waited my decision I went one Sunday evening to visit my dulcinea, and finding the area gate open, I descended the steps and opened the kitchen door without giving my accustomed knock ; but judge of my astonishment on discovering the faithless Betsey sitting on the knee of a brawny life-guardsman with her arm round his neck in the most endearing manner. The moment she perceived me she started up in confusion ; whereupon I made a suitable apology for my abrupt appearance, and was about to make my exit, well pleased with the discovery I had made ; but Betsey, who was an experienced dabster in the art of dissimulation, begged I would be seated, as the stranger, to whom she introduced me, was no other than her brother, who had but recently returned from the wars.— As my suspicions were now strengthened, I took

my leave, as soon as a little etiquette would permit, of Betsey and her paramour, determined that I would no longer be an obstruction to the continuation of their campaigns, which my presence had so unexpectedly retarded.

My frequent visits to the fickle Betsey did not by any means take my attention from the duties of my situation, on the contrary, I endeavoured to make myself acquainted with all the intricacies of the common law, which at first appeared extremely abstruse and complicated; but by unremitting perseverance and attention I very soon overcame difficulties which at first appeared insurmountable, and occasionally displayed, with no small degree of ostentation, a portion of the knowledge I had acquired to my employer, who beheld with astonishment the rapid strides that I daily made in legal chicanery and mystification.

While matters thus went on smoothly, an event occurred which still further paved the way for my advancement; this was the sudden death of our managing clerk, who had been very ailing a considerable time, and I was at once named his successor at an advanced salary of thirty-five shillings per week. With this unlooked for event my consequence grew apace, and I now began to assume all the airs of a man of the town.

By this means I gradually enlarged the circle of my acquaintance, and became very intimate with several gay sparks connected with the pro-

fession, and among them was a young man of very genteel appearance, known by the cognomen of Dandy Chapman, by whom I was introduced to some of the pandemoniums of vice and profligacy which abound in and about the metropolis to an almost incredible extent.

Fortune, however, as fickle and inconstant as ever, did not long favour me; for Mr. Solomons who had hitherto generally enjoyed good health, began gradually to manifest symptoms of consumption, which was brought on by late hours. He had recourse for advice to the most eminent of the faculty, but without success, and daily pined away under this dreadful malady, until he was literally reduced to a mere skeleton. Notwithstanding his emaciated appearance he continued up to a few days prior to his death to attend regularly at chambers. On the morning of the day preceding that on which he died he sent for me, and after discussing very rationally and collectively some matters of business which required immediate attention, expressed a hope that by the end of the ensuing week he should be enabled to resume his duties; but, alas! I never again saw him alive; as before the setting of the next day's sun he was a corpse. This event occasioned me infinite concern, as it deprived me of a kind and indulgent employer, from whom on many occasions I had experienced repeated acts of friendship. In a few days the body of Mr. Solomons was consigned to its kindred

earth, according to the rites or formula of the Hebrew nation.

I was retained by the friends of the deceased in getting in his book debts and winding up his affairs, which kept me in full employ for nearly six months; so that with my salary during that period, which I managed to save, and a ten-pound note which was presented to me by the father of the deceased as a testimony of his approbation of my conduct, I found myself in possession of nearly fifty pounds.

CHAPTER XXII.

IMMEDIATELY after the receipt of this money, I waited upon my friend Jenks and discharged my pecuniary obligations to him, as well as to my landlady, in whose books I cut a very prominent figure; these payments having been made, I had upwards of twenty pounds remaining, and before that sum should be exhausted I felt confident of being enabled to obtain employment; but alas! I reckoned without my host. My endeavours were unavailing, and I had the mortification of finding myself once more reduced to my last six-pence. In this dilemma I rose one morning, lost in conjecture as to what course to pursue to raise a further supply, for sooner than again have recourse to my friend Jenks for pecuniary

assistance, I would rather have undergone almost any privations, however humiliating. Undecided whither to proceed, I entered a coffee house to take some refreshment, and deliberate on what was best to be done to lessen existing evils, when chancing to take up the newspaper, to see if there were any vacant situations advertised, the most piercing anguish was changed to inexpressible joy on reading as follows:—

“If Mr. Michael Fagg, who is supposed to be now residing in some part of London, will apply to Mr. Ranken, of No. 4, Walbrook Buildings, he will hear of something to his advantage; or if dead, any person who can furnish authenticated evidence of that fact will be handsomely rewarded for his trouble.”

Full of conjectures as to what this something to my advantage could be, I took my departure, without even waiting to finish my repast, and very soon reached the chambers of Mr. Rauken, with whom I had a long interview, and convinced him of my being still in the land of the living. That gentleman informed me that a client of his, Mr. Simpson, to whom my uncle had lent five hundred pounds on mortgage, was desirous of paying off that sum, so as to clear his estate of all encumbrances, and that he had written on the subject to the late Mr. Cheek’s executors, at whose request the advertisement was inserted. Having apprised Mr. Ranken that the money was bequeathed to me by the Will of my

deceased uncle, he remarked that he was aware of that fact, but that it would be necessary to prove my identity; upon this point too I promised to satisfy him in a day or two. "Well," said he, "as soon as you do that, and procure the signatures of your uncle's executors to a transfer of the mortgage, the draft of which I shall prepare without delay for perusal, the deed shall be engrossed, and as soon as it is properly executed the money will be paid to you on your procuring an authority from the executors to that effect." To these requisites I promised immediate attention, and quitted Mr. Ranken quite delighted with the result of my interview, and full of reflections on the caprice of fortune, which frequently elevates those whom the moment before she had most depressed.

In the afternoon I called upon Jenks, to whom I communicated the agreeable intelligence, at which he testified much pleasure; we spent the evening together, and parted with an understanding that he should accompany me next day to Mr. Ranken to prove my identity.

Next morning I rose full of spirits and repaired to the house of my friend, with whom I breakfasted, and immediately afterwards proceeded to the chambers of Mr. Ranken, with whom we had a long conference, which terminated in Jenks having made the necessary affidavit of my being the identical party to whom the legacy was left by the deceased Mr. Cheek. On the production

of this affidavit I received from Mr. Ranken a sum of ten pounds to meet present necessities, with a promise that he would let me have the draft of the deed in about a week to forward to the executors of my uncle for their approval.

This sudden approach of good fortune made me soon forget the sufferings I had so often encountered, and I began to assume all the consequence of the perfect gentleman, to sustain which with becoming dignity the ten pounds soon vanished, and I repaired again to Mr. Ranken for the draft and a further supply, the former I received and transmitted it at once to the executors, requesting expedition; the latter I was not so fortunate in procuring, but was desired to call again in a day or two. I accordingly called at the expiration of that time and received a further sum of five pounds on account; with this sum I resolved to manage until the business should be completed. In the course of a week I received back the draft of the intended deed, approved by the executors of my uncle, which I lost not a moment in handing to Mr. Ranken with a request that it should be engrossed on the proper stamp with all possible expedition. This he promised to attend to without delay. After a good deal of importunity, however, I got the deed engrossed from Mr. Ranken, which I forwarded at once to the executors for their signatures, and after a delay of nearly a fortnight received it back duly executed, with a letter ad-

dressed to Mr. Ranken authorizing the amount of the mortgage money and the interest thereon to be paid over to me. With these documents in my possession, and full of spirits, I set out for Mr. Ranken's chambers, which, on my arrival, to my infinite surprise I found closed, and on inquiring as to the cause, was given to understand that he had suddenly disappeared, and no one knew what had become of him, or whether he had fled. Language is inadequate to describe my feelings on making this discovery, which precipitated me from the highest pinnacle of hope to the lowest abyss of despair. I retraced my steps to my lodgings, where I arrived full of gloom and melancholy, and shut myself up in my bed-room, where I had well nigh terminated my earthly sufferings.

In this state of despair I was visited by my friend Jenks, who seemed desirous to know in what manner I intended to dispose of my money. I could not help smiling at this interrogatory, and on my apprising him of the sudden disappearance of Mr. Ranken, and my consequent disappointment, he seemed quite astounded, and after a pause of a few minutes remarked that I had long been the child of misfortune, but he hoped that before long matters would take a more favourable turn. Seeing me extremely dejected and low spirited, he endeavoured to rally me by pointing out the inutility of allowing such a circumstance to prey upon my mind, and

having prevailed upon me to accept a temporary loan, he quitted me, strongly recommending more fortitude.

One day while I was thus pining with ineffectual sorrow I strolled into the Strand, and had not proceeded many yards before I was aroused from my meditations by a tap on the shoulder; I turned round and at once recognized my old friend Dandy Chapman, who expressed much satisfaction at seeing me. Upon this I apprised him of the death of Mr. Solomons and of my being out of employ. "Well," said he, "it turns out very lucky that I should have met you, as I have within the last few minutes heard of a vacancy in the office of Mr. Forbes, a very respectable attorney residing in Gray's Inn Square, and if you go directly I think your appearance will operate in your favour." I expressed my thanks to Chapman for the intelligence, and proceeded directly according to the address given. I was admitted to the presence of Mr. Forbes, to whom I made known the object of my visit; after having satisfied him with respect to my qualifications and character he engaged me at a salary of thirty shillings per week.

The next morning my friend Jenks paid me another visit before I was out of bed, and informed me that he had learnt that the sudden disappearance of Mr. Ranken was owing to his having become security for another party who had become bankrupt, but that some hopes were

entertained that arrangements would be effected through the interference of his friends, which would enable him to return and resume his business. This intelligence consoled me in some measure under my afflictions, and I endeavoured to forget my past disappointments in the hope that matters would soon assume a more favourable aspect.

The next day I entered on my labours, and soon discovered that my employer prided himself very much on his great proficiency in making out bills of costs. In this respect I endeavoured to excel him, and one day in particular, after exhausting all the tact and acumen of which he was capable, in the augmentation of a bill of costs that he was about to take into the office of one of the Masters in Chancery, he handed it to me for the purpose of having it copied. In glancing my eye over it I perceived it would admit of considerable improvement, and that there were many items omitted which could with propriety have been charged. I communicated this discovery to my master, who immediately concurred in my opinion, and authorized me to re-model it in any manner I thought proper; I went to work upon it that instant, and improved so far that I increased it by some fifteen pounds. This administered such satisfaction to Mr. Forbes, that he commended my discernment and, by way of stimulating me to persevere in the good work I had thus began, he presented

me with a sovereign and advanced my salary ten shillings weekly.

For a while things went on in this propitious manner, when one day a man of very respectable appearance entered the office, accompanied by another, and inquired if there was a young man of the name of Fagg there. I replied in the affirmative, adding that I was the party inquired after. "Bless me," said the stranger, whom I now recognized as Mr. Ranken, "so you are, I had almost forgotten you; I have had some difficulty in finding you out, and am now come to pay off the amount of the mortgage made by my client Mr. Simpson, to your uncle the late Mr. Cheek, and have only to express my regret that you should have been so long detained out of the money; I have suffered myself through the delinquency of others, and have been consequently compelled to disappoint you." My joy on hearing this may be readily imagined, and after having expressed some remarks on the inconveniences occasioned to me by the non-payment of the money, Mr. Ranken inquired if the deed had been duly executed. Upon receiving an answer in the affirmative, and that it was then at my lodgings, he said "Well, I cannot wait just now but I shall call here at this hour to-morrow, when you can have the deed ready, and we shall then complete the business." I urged its completion at once, determined not to afford him another chance of decamping, whereupon he in-

quired how far off were my lodgings; and upon being informed that they were not far distant he agreed to wait my return. I ran, or rather flew to my lodgings, and quickly returned with the deed and the executors' authority for paying over the money to me. He had no sooner satisfied himself of their authenticity than he handed me five hundred pounds, less the fifteen pounds which he had before advanced.

This windfall having reached the ears of my master, he in a very friendly and earnest manner desired to know my future intentions. I candidly intimated that I had some inclination to get articled with a portion of the money, and that the remainder I intended to invest in the funds, and allow it to accumulate until I had completed my articles; in the propriety of this arrangement he appeared to concur, but after a pause of a few minutes addressed me thus, "I tell you candidly Mr. Fagg, that I have occasion just at this moment for three hundred pounds, if you will lend me that sum I shall give you my bond and warrant of attorney to secure the re-payment of it, and to convince you of my liberality, I will take you as my articled clerk, and continue to pay the same salary that I pay you now." This proposition which I conceived to be very fair and liberal, I readily embraced, and it was agreed that the necessary documents for my being duly articled should be forthwith prepared.

The next day which was the 21st of August,

1817, this legal ceremony was duly performed according to law, and in the evening I presented my fellow-clerks with a five-pound note to celebrate the auspicious event.

While matters wore this favourable aspect, I was one day perambulating Regent Street, when my attention was arrested by a very neat equipage, in which sat a fashionably dressed lady whose features appeared to be familiar to me; I surveyed her attentively for some time, and my surprise may be readily imagined on recognising her to be Lady C——. On making this discovery I moved off, as I fancied unnoticed, determined to have no further communication with her ladyship, to whose artifices and treachery I attributed my incarceration, and narrow escape from a disgraceful punishment. Before I had proceeded many yards my progress was retarded by a servant in livery, who with a respectful salute informed me that his mistress, Lady C——, would be glad to have a few moments conversation with me. I hesitated for a minnute, undecided whether or not I should comply; but reflecting that perhaps I had wrongfully accused her, and that I should at all events afford her an opportunity of explaining her mysterious behaviour, I reluctantly returned. She received me in a most courteous and affable manner, and expressed the great pleasure she experienced in seeing me again, and remarked that she supposed since our last interview I had visited my native

country. I was very reserved in returning these courtesies, and candidly told her ladyship that she had very nearly put it out of my power of ever again visiting it. She declared she could not comprehend my meaning, and, begging me to be more explicit, invited me to sit beside her, as she intended to take an airing in the park before dinner. With some hesitation I yielded to her request, and had no sooner taken my seat than she commenced her inquiries as to the cause of my absence on the night in question. I informed her of every particular connected with my capture and subsequent discharge before the magistrate, at which she seemed amazed, and could not help indulging occasionally in a hearty laugh at the ludicrous turn which our assignation had taken. As soon as her ladyship had heard me to the end, she expressed herself thus:—“ Well, Fagg, that I have been undesignedly the cause of much anxiety and uneasiness to you is quite true, for which I am exceedingly sorry, but had you carefully followed my directions in respect to the door, you would have met with a very different reception; however, I must endeavour to make amends for the misfortunes that have befallen you, and if I do not diminish them in future, you may rest satisfied I shall do nothing to augment them. I thanked her ladyship for this voluntary profession of friendship, the sincerity of which I very much questioned.

We had now been round the park, when Lady

C—— directed to be driven home; on our way thither she expressed a wish that I should pass as the nephew of her late husband, under an assumed name, and gave me a few hints as to the manner in which I should conduct myself in the presence of strangers: I promised punctual obedience to her commands in that respect. Having now arrived at the house we alighted, and I followed her ladyship to the parlour, where I was introduced to Miss C.; after some unimportant conversation, her ladyship retired in company with her daughter to dress for dinner.

Being now left alone her strange and mysterious conduct filled me with various conjectures as to her real character and the reasons which induced her to wish me to assume a fictitious name, but as I had not seen any thing improper or indelicate in her conduct, I thought it would be acting too harshly to draw precipitate inferences, which might in the end turn out to be unfounded; I therefore suspended the formation of any opinion for the present, and left the disclosure to time alone.

Dinner having been announced, her ladyship led the way to the dining room, followed by her daughter and myself, where a most sumptuous repast was laid out, to which we sat down apparently highly pleased with each other. The interval between this meal and supper time was agreeably passed away by Miss C. playing a few favourite airs on the pianoforte, which I accom-

panied with a song; both mother and daughter commended my performance in such flattering terms as made me, I confess, not a little vain of my vocal powers. Time passed almost imperceptibly and ten o'clock arrived, when her ladyship intimated to her daughter that she might retire for the night, with which intimation she instantly complied. Being now free from the restraint occasioned by the presence of a third person, her ladyship became more free and unreserved, and said and did a great many agreeable things; notwithstanding which I could scarcely avoid looking upon her as a trap or decoy, perhaps determined to beguile me still farther, and was therefore far from encouraging her advances; but as frail man has not at all times sufficient resolution to withstand temptation, so it was with me, her blandishments exciting the most bewitching ideas, threw me off my guard and subdued me to her desires.

Late at night I tore myself from her ladyship's embraces and promised to renew my visit on the following evening, which I scrupulously observed, and continued this course for nearly six months. During this period I accompanied her to plays, balls, and fashionable parties, passing as her nephew and admirably sustaining the character I had assumed. Nothing filled me with more disgust than the absurd and ridiculous etiquette so rigidly observed in what is termed the higher circles; but by degrees and frequent intercourse

I managed to accommodate myself to manners I so much despised.

In this manner we spent our time very agreeably, and as we imagined so circumspectly as to afford no food for the craving appetite of scandal; but in this we were mistaken. One evening we were invited to a party which consisted principally of ancient ladies and gentlemen, with a few striplings of fashion, and on cards being introduced, her ladyship and myself happening to become partners at a game of whist, by an unprecedented run of good luck we pocketed a pretty considerable sum. One of our opponents losing all control of his temper, let drop some very ambiguous hints against the fair name and reputation of my partner, with which my name was coupled in such a manner as to leave no doubt that I was the party alluded to. This indecent and unwarrantable attack I resented immediately, and from words we should have proceeded to blows had it not been for the interposition of some of those present. We quitted the company, however, exchanging our cards, and I returned home with her ladyship, neither of us well pleased with the occurrences of the night, having hitherto imagined that our amours remained hidden and concealed from the censure of the world.

I proceeded next day to the house of my friend Jenks, with whom I kept up a correspondence, and having related to him the affair, he agreed at

once that I could not do otherwise than give him a meeting. Having placed in his hands my opponent's card, on which was inscribed "The Honourable Theophilus Curry," my friend proceeded without loss of time to the address on the card, and had an interview with that gentleman, who referred him to his friend Major Furnew, with whom the preliminaries for a meeting were discussed, and fixed for the next morning in Hyde Park; I studiously avoided letting drop any hint of our intentions to her ladyship, lest she might endeavour to frustrate our arrangements, by giving intelligence at the police office.

The next morning I arose under some pretext, and hurrying on my clothes waited upon my friend Jenks, with whom I proceeded to the place appointed; we arrived there at the precise time, and had not waited long before my adversary and his friend made their appearance. I confess that during the time the distance at which we were to stand from each other was under consideration, I felt an unusual sensation and was almost petrified with dread; and, judging from the pale and ghastly visage of my honourable opponent, he was not a jot better. The ground having been measured we took our places, and on the signal being given we discharged our pistols at each other, but without effect; the seconds now interposed, and so far succeeded that we quitted the ground without a second exchange of shots, my opponent having made a very hand-

some and appropriate apology for his intemperate behaviour, and promised to write me a note in the course of the day expressive of his regret at having used expressions reflecting in any degree on the character of a lady of such distinction, and his belief of their being totally destitute of foundation. True to his word, he forwarded the letter, which I lost no time in placing in her ladyship's hands, at which she seemed mightily pleased, and commended my zeal and courage in very flattering terms for having so heroically vindicated her injured honour.

I was not a little delighted at this termination of our hostilities, which was blazoned forth in the newspapers, and soon reached the ears of Mr. Forbes, who being of a methodistical turn of thinking, delivered me a very severe philippic on the imprudence of being concerned in such affairs, and enjoined me, on pain of separation, never again to be engaged in a similar recontre, at least during the remainder of my term of servitude.

Although I had lived with her ladyship for nearly twelve months on the most intimate terms yet it is no less strange than true that during that time I remained totally ignorant of her real character and circumstances; that she was a woman of undoubted respectability I had no reason to doubt, from the circle in which she moved; but as to the nature or extent of her pecuniary resources I had not the most distant idea; it was evident that they must have been very consider-

able to support the style in which she lived. Finding her one day in excellent humour, I ventured to allude to the reserve she had always maintained on this subject; when, judging of the drift of my observations, she good-naturedly remarked that as the male sex were generally very inquisitive she would gratify my curiosity, and proceeded in this manner—

“ My late husband was the Honourable Charles C——, the second son of the late Lord L——, who formerly resided at —— Castle, in Wiltshire, very near the residence of my father, Jackson Merriville, Esq. As my sire had the reputation of being a man of immense wealth, the late Lord L—— found it convenient to be on very intimate terms with him, and borrowed from him large sums from time to time. As a return for the pecuniary advances thus afforded, we were constant visitors at the castle, and as my fortune, which amounted to twenty thousand pounds, was looked upon as a desirable thing by his lordship, who was what is vulgarly termed a pauper lord, a marriage between his second son and myself was proposed, and readily acceded to by my father. Upon its solemnization a deed of settlement was executed, by which my fortune was invested in the names of trustees for the benefit of the issue of the marriage. Shortly after the celebration of our nuptials we removed to town, where we took a house, and furnished it with every thing that was suitable to our rank

and station in life, and received as well as returned the visits of some of the most fashionable people of the metropolis. We had not lived long in this style before we found that our expenses considerably exceeded our income. Notwithstanding this discovery we had not sufficient discretion to contract our expenditure, the consequence was that we had to break up our establishment, and a commission in the army was purchased for my husband out of his patrimony, which was very inconsiderable, owing to the oppressive laws of primogeniture, laws repugnant not only to the principles of equity but to the best feelings of our nature. He soon rose rapidly to the rank of a colonel, which he held at the time of his death; this event was occasioned by being thrown from his horse, and occurred about three years since, leaving the young lady in whose society you have so frequently been his only issue. His promotion did not, as you may suppose, arise from the brilliancy of his services in the field, but was solely attributable to his family influence and connections.

"It has always been my opinion," concluded her ladyship, "that family patronage has done more to injure his majesty's service than any other circumstance, inasmuch as men of real merit who have encountered dangers and difficulties, are excluded from a fair chance of promotion because they cannot command the smiles of those in power."

In a few days after her ladyship had detailed those particulars she received a letter from one of her trustees, who was in the habit of making her remittances arising out of the interest of her money, informing her that the twenty thousand pounds which had been vested in himself and his co-trustee, had been sold out pursuant to a power contained in the deed of settlement, and lent on mortgage at an advanced rate of interest, the payment of which could not be immediately enforced, in consequence of some proceedings which had been instituted in Chancery. This intelligence disconcerted Lady C—— a good deal, and after considerable cogitation she resolved, in order to avoid the importunity of some creditors who became extremely pressing for the payment of their demands, to go into the country and pass some time among her friends until her affairs were arranged, and invited me to accompany her during her sojourn. This invitation, after expressing my gratitude to her ladyship, I declined, under the plea that it was absolutely necessary some decisive step should be taken as to my future career in life. In the propriety of this observation her ladyship with some reluctance acquiesced.

On the morning fixed for their departure I accompanied Lady C—— and her daughter to the coach office and took an affectionate farewell of them; her ladyship, previous to setting out on her intended journey, having delivered to me a

letter, accompanied with a request that it should not be opened until the following day, which request I promised strictly to observe. The next day on opening the letter, I found a twenty-pound note enclosed, with a few lines expressive of her regret at our separation, which she hoped would be only temporary. For my part, I confess when I reflected on the very liberal and considerate manner she had behaved towards me, and my introduction by her means into the best society, I much deplored our unavoidable separation; but, again, when I considered how mean and despicable it is for any man to live on the bounty of another, more especially on one of that sex who naturally look to us for protection and support, I little regretted that this connection had terminated.

CHAPTER XXIII.

NOTWITHSTANDING my repeated visits to Lady C——, of which Mr. Forbes was not altogether ignorant, that gentleman seemed not a little gratified on hearing of her departure, as he imagined that a considerable portion of the time bestowed on her ladyship could have been more profitably employed in the promotion of his interests; and one day upon expressing himself to this effect, I apologized for some past instances of neg-

ligence that had occurred, and assured him that henceforward he might calculate upon my undivided attention to business, and that my future exertions would more than counterbalance past inattention.

I rigidly fulfilled my promise, and attended so sedulously to the business of my master that he promised to receive me as his partner at the expiration of my articles which I had now nearly served.

My intercourse with Lady C—— had given me a taste for domestic society which I thought my present income would allow me to indulge in; still I was not disposed to engage so far as to deprive myself of the power of taking advantage of any fortunate chance that might present itself, for a permanent alliance with some lady of family and fortune. Considering this subject one solitary evening, my thoughts turned on Rosina Godfrey; I had not seen this young woman but once since our meeting at the police office, and then I learnt that she continued with the same family in Russell Square. After a little deliberation I resolved on seeking an interview with her, and endeavouring to ascertain how far her own inclinations would lead her to meet my views.

A few evenings after this I met her by appointment, and the usual greetings having passed, I gradually introduced the object of my visit by referring to the many happy days we had spent in each other's society, and contrasting them with

my present isolated condition. Although I proceeded to allude to my present design with the greatest caution, she quickly perceived my drift, and interrupted me by declaring that nothing on earth could induce her to enter again upon such an unhallowed course of life as she formerly led with me. "It is true," she continued, "I might have been too easily seduced by your persuasions and promises, but I loved you with as ardent a love as ever warmed a female bosom, and fondly hoped that all my pleasing visions of happiness would have been realized by our union. How grievously I was disappointed! How bitterly I have lamented my errors, Heaven only knows!—No, Fagg, my affections have been blighted, and even should you now be disposed to perform that act of justice which you ought to have done years ago, my feelings would lead me to decline your offer. I have but one request to make,"—she paused, as if waiting for my assent. I assured her that any thing in my power should be most willingly granted. She then resumed, "You may recollect that we had a son, though, as you have never alluded to him, I suppose he does not often trouble your thoughts; it is on his account that I have much anxiety. When I came to reside with this family, their liberality enabled me to make frequent remittances to the person in whose care I had left our little George; and, in return, I occasionally received most gratifying accounts of his progress; but, by some means,

between four and five years ago, our channel of communication was lost, and all I have since been able to learn is, that she and the child came over to this country. Now, I ask nothing for myself, but if you can discover this dear boy let him not want an adviser and a friend ; and, oh ! palliate as much as you can the errors of his mother."

I endeavoured to convince her that my own inclinations would lead me to do every thing she could desire with regard to our son, and again recurred to her own dependent situation ; she replied that she was looked upon by the family as one of themselves, and the children who had been placed under her superintendence were almost as much attached to her as to their own parents, and though they were now grown up, and required little assistance from her, she did not think she should be unprovided for. She hesitated a little, and then went on to observe that perhaps she might wish to advise with me as a friend, but, as it was getting late, she would defer saying more till she met me again, which she would rather should be at some other place, as my calling there might give rise to unpleasant observations. I proposed that she should call on me at my lodgings ; this she promised to do at an early hour on the following evening, and we parted. I returned home fully impressed with the idea that Rosina's ready concurrence in the proposal for a meeting at my lodgings was in-

duced by a desire to return to me on the best terms she could make, and determined not to purchase her favours at too exorbitant a rate.

Rosina kept her appointment; I was prepared for her reception, and welcomed her home with a salute in such a free and familiar manner as I fancied would save the trouble of a ceremonious introduction. She gently repressed my advances and, assuming a serious manner, addressed me thus:—"Mr. Fagg, I do not come here to waste your time or my own in idle dalliance, I came to consult and advise with you as a brother; that is the relationship I had occasion to claim after your departure last night, and in that character only can I ever see you again." I replied that it was quite immaterial under what disguise she saw me, provided we understood each other.—"I am sorry," she continued, "to observe so much levity in your conduct, it is a proof that you do not understand me; let me be more explicit. I expressed to you last night my belief that when the family I am now with had no further need of my services I should not be unprovided for, the facts are these: the butler, who has been many years in the same family, has made proposals to me, which my master and mistress advise me to accept, as a means of being permanently settled; and they have generously offered to present us with two hundred pounds towards setting us up in business. He is a very worthy man, somewhat older than myself, and

has saved a considerable sum. I have not yet given any answer, and I ask your honest and unbiased opinion how I shall decide on this to me most important occasion. Shall I accept or decline his offer?"

This was a home thrust, but considering it might have been only a feint, to stimulate me to declare myself and make her my own, I seemed for a while absorbed by the momentous question, then, putting on all the gravity I could muster, delivered my opinion in the following terms:

"My dear sister, you may recollect the words of the poet, "Service is no inheritance," who then, in your situation, would hesitate, to prefer a worthy man, with a sum of money at his command, independent of the present promised by your generous employers, and to which, if you follow my advice and accept this elderly gentleman's proposals, I will add fifty pounds from my own limited funds as a testimony of my brotherly affection."

She smiled, and remarked that she believed I was sincere in the advice I had given, and whether I should be found equally so as regarded my promise time would shew. I assured her that my word in that event might be relied on. She said she would not fail to give me due notice, and, after receiving a chaste fraternal embrace, took her departure, leaving me considerably disappointed in the estimate I had formed of this amiable young woman's virtue.

A few weeks after this interview Miss Godfrey became the lawful wife of Mr. Wade, the butler, and, having been presented with the two sums above alluded to, is now living happily and contented with her spouse, and carrying on a respectable business in the public line near Somers Town.

While I was looking forward with intense anxiety for the termination of my servitude, we were dreadfully shocked one morning on hearing of the sudden death of Mr. Forbes, who as he was proceeding to Westminster Hall for the purpose of attending a trial in which he was concerned, the cabriolet in which he was riding happening to come in collision with a coal waggon, the concussion was so great that he was thrown out head foremost, and his head chancing to come in contact with the curb stone, he was killed on the spot.

The cup of hope was thus once more dashed from my lips, and the contemplated partnership upon which I had so often dwelt with delight was for ever put an end to by this melancholy event. The poignancy of my sorrow on this occasion was also augmented by the recollection that the sum of three hundred pounds which I had lent the deceased if not totally lost was placed in extreme jeopardy; but my uneasiness on this head was soon set at rest, for on searching his papers a Will was discovered, made a short time previous to his death, by which he ap-

pointed his wife and myself joint executors.—This was so far satisfactory as it enabled me to become my own pay-master.

Immediately after his funeral the practice was advertised for sale, and several were in treaty for its purchase; but, as I intended to apply for admission in the ensuing term, I claimed the right of having the preference given to me. The justness of this was admitted on all hands, and ultimately I became the successor of Mr. Forbes for the sum which he stood indebted to me, namely three hundred pounds, having previously undertaken to make out the bills of costs due to the deceased, and get in as well as I possibly could his outstanding estate.

In the ensuing Michaelmas Term, 1822, I was duly admitted and dubbed by Act of Parliament "Gentleman, One," &c. and subscribed the great roll of attorneys preserved in Westminster Hall, having previously taken the prescribed oaths.

Having now become a legalized practitioner, I found myself at first rather awkwardly circumstanced in the adjustment of many of the debts due to the deceased by some of those whom I expected would continue as clients, and my duty as executor, but between the two extremes I determined on steering what is termed "a middle course," and so far succeeded that I very soon acquired not only the esteem and confidence of the friends of the deceased, but of the various other parties interested.

By this discreet and impartial behaviour which secured the good opinion of all parties, I carried on my business, which daily increased, in a very satisfactory manner, and in a few years had the gratification of finding myself in possession of a very extensive and respectable practice, which produced on an average from fifteen hundred to two thousand pounds a year.

Fortune, still as fickle as ever, did not long favour me with her captivating smiles: Among the clients of the late Mr. Forbes was a very wealthy vinegar merchant of the name of Jacques, who called at the office one day during my occasional absence, and left a memorandum requesting me to call upon him at his house in the course of that afternoon, for the purpose of taking instructions to prepare a marriage settlement. On receipt of this communication I repaired to the residence of that gentleman in Queen Square, and my name having been announced just as the family were about to sit down to dinner, Mr Jacques insisted on my stopping to dine with them. I had scarcely taken my seat at the table before one of the company, a stout, square-built man, whose swarthy visage appeared to have been tanned by at least fifty summers' suns, saluted me with several broadsides of his nautical wit; not exactly comprehending his lingo, I felt at first by no means very comfortable; but this feeling wore off as the conversation became general, when I displayed my talents to some advantage, and

whenever an opportunity offered, turned the tables so adroitly on the tar, that he found the "land shark," as he was pleased to term me, was more than a match for him.

I was not a little surprised on learning that this unprepossessing personage, whose name was Grant, was the intended bridegroom; nor did it require much penetration to discover that Miss Jacques, the beautiful and blooming bride, was not entirely reconciled to the sacrifice she was about to make. During the short time that I had been in her company, I watched her movements pretty narrowly, and sometimes found her intently looking upon me, and now and then with such a languishing look, that believing the eyes to speak the language of the heart, I was vain enough to imagine that I had already made a favourable impression on her, and that it was not improbable but she would have warmer feelings than those of gratitude for the man who should rescue her from the destiny to which she was doomed.

In the midst of these pleasing reflections Mr. Jacques requested my attendance in an adjoining room for the purpose of taking down the particulars of the proposed deed. I attended him accordingly, and I had no sooner penned the necessary instructions than I took my departure.

On my return home, and during the remainder of the evening, Miss Jacques engrossed all my

thoughts. Having every reason to apprehend that the artifices and misrepresentations of Mr. Curzon had succeeded in estranging from me the friendship of the Pelham family, and the probability that the affections of the adored Emily had been transferred to my detested rival, I considered myself at liberty to prosecute to the best advantage any matrimonial scheme that might offer. The fortune and future prospects of Miss Jacques were attractions by no means to be overlooked, even in my present flourishing circumstances, and provided I could obtain an interview with that young lady I did not expect to find much difficulty in supplanting Grant in her esteem; indeed it was obvious to me that she looked with indifference, if not with disdain, on the man who had been selected, evidently from mercenary motives, for her future partner. My remarks during the few hours I had been in her company led me to flatter myself that I had made some progress in obtaining her favourable opinion, but in what manner to ascertain the truth of this conjecture, or how to procure an interview, I was at a loss to determine.

My first thought was to disclose my sentiments in a tender epistle, but on consideration this appeared too hazardous an attempt, lest I might have miscalculated with regard to her disposition, and thereby lay myself open to severe animadversion; I then contemplated putting myself in communication by means of one of the servants,

whose good offices might be secured by a bribe; but this intention was no sooner formed than abandoned, as being equally fraught with danger.

Whilst in this state of uncertainty, it occurred to me that it would be necessary to have the names of the trustees of the intended settlement, which I had omitted to obtain in my particulars. Under a pretext of procuring them I proceeded to the house of Mr. Jacques on the following morning about eleven o'clock, a time when I suspected he would be absent from home, and on inquiry my conjectures turned out to be well-founded. I drew the servant into a casual conversation, and asked her a thousand absurd questions, which, if she had possessed the least penetration, would have led her to discover what was passing in my mind. Just as I was about to move from the door I chanced to look up towards the first floor, when I espied Miss Jacques at the window, who recognized me, and desired the servant to shew me up stairs. She received me very courteously, and after discussing for some time many indifferent topics, she expressed some surprise that I was a lawyer; for, said she, "I have always looked upon the members of that profession as a very grave and sedate body of men, and the only mode in which I have been accustomed to distinguish those gentlemen was by their green spectacles and black bags." I could not help laughing at this laconic description of the gentlemen of the long robe, which I endeav-

voured to rectify by assuring her that there were as gay and volatile spirits in the profession of the law, as in any other. In the propriety of this remark she fully concurred, and good-humouredly observed that were she to take me as a sample, she must certainly confess herself mistaken in the opinion she had formed. I acknowledged this flattering compliment, and, by way of returning it, congratulated her upon her approaching nuptials; whereupon she begged me not to make any further allusion to the matter, as she could not bear the thoughts of it. I was not much astonished on hearing this declaration, which I looked upon as a favourable omen to the prosecution of my suit, and lost no time in disclosing my passion. On hearing this she affected some surprise, and remarked that she had no objection to my person, which she candidly admitted had made an impression upon her; but that at present I was an utter stranger to her, and, consequently, she could not be expected to place an implicit reliance upon the sincerity of my professions. Having satisfied her in this respect she agreed to meet me next day at a certain place, and I took my leave.

My imagination was so absorbed in anticipating the happiness I was to enjoy the next day, that I slept very little that night, but getting up early in the morning went to the place appointed, where I met Miss Jacques. As it would be tedious to relate all that passed at this interview,

let it suffice that after some persuasion she consented to elope with me in the afternoon of the following day.

Next morning, having dispatched my breakfast I called upon Janks, to whom I related the whole affair, and added the experiment was well worth being put to the test, as the lady's fortune amounted to five thousand pounds; my friend with great seriousness expressed his apprehensions lest the enterprise should miscarry, but recommended decision and promptitude. I promised strictly to obey his instructions and parted from him, observing, that although I could not with certainty calculate upon success, yet that nothing on my part should be wanting to deserve it..

I went from thence to my chambers, where having given instructions respecting some matters which required prompt attention, I gave my clerks to understand that I was unexpectedly called into the country on very urgent and important business.

Having thus arranged matters for a few days' absence, I went to a livery stable keeper and hired a post-chaise and four of his best horses; with these I proceeded to Great Ormond Street, before the hour fixed, and almost immediately after my arrival there Miss Jacques, true to her promise, made her appearance, and without displaying much reluctance placed herself beside me and we set forward with all possible expedition for Gretna Green, for the purpose of being joined

in the holy bands of wedlock, to which destination my fair companion seemed by no means averse. As we proceeded on our journey she informed me that she loathed and detested the man who was intended to be her partner for life, who was a captain in the East India Company's service, and whose chief, if not sole qualification consisted in having amassed a considerable sum of money, which, she observed, in her father's estimation seemed to be all that was requisite to constitute human felicity; but from this opinion she totally differed, and commented in a most earnest and energetic manner upon marriages brought about through family influence, and generally engendered in sordid and pecuniary motives, without any regard to the feelings of those immediately concerned. This conduct she censured with much severity, as most pernicious not only to the parties interested but to the best interests of society.

If I was before captivated with her person, I was now no less delighted with her good sense and the charms of her conversation. In this agreeable manner we pursued our journey, and travelled all night, except during the intervals occupied in changing horses and taking some refreshment. On the afternoon of the second day we had nearly reached the Scottish borders, when we were overtaken by a chaise and six horses, and our driver was enjoined in a menacing tone not to move an inch further if he valued his life. At this threat I thrust my head out of the chaise

to see what was the matter, imagining that we were about to be attacked by robbers; but it is impossible to describe my consternation on beholding the enraged bridegroom and the no less exasperated father. They forced open the chaise door and presented themselves before my fair companion, to her great terror and amazement, and dragged me out. I managed to disengage myself from their grasp, and sustained for a while their joint attack, making, in the mean time, repeated appeals to the postilion, who was looking on, for assistance, but without effect. Notwithstanding the unequalness of the match I withstood their united efforts for some time, and knocked them down one after another, until having become enfeebled and exhausted by the combined exertions of my adversaries, after an arduous struggle I was forced to yield the palm of victory to my opponents, who belaboured me until they imagined they had done their business effectually.

I lay insensible on the road side I know not how long, but on opening my eyes I found myself in the cottage of a poor man named Evans, who chancing to pass at the time, and seeing my body covered with bruises had humanity enough to have me conveyed to his house; from his wife I experienced all the kindness and attention that was in her power to bestow. In the mean while a surgeon arrived, and having dressed my wounds I was put to bed; here I remained for nearly

three weeks before I was able to venture outside the door; at the end of this period having recovered some strength, my benefactress desired to know something of my recent disaster. This piece of satisfaction I could not refuse to one from whom I had received so much kindness, therefore I related every particular without reserve. She seemed diverted with the details of my intrigue, and expressed her regret at the unfavourable turn it had taken. During my relation, Evans who was abroad, returned home, and perceiving me engaged in serious conversation with his wife, conducted himself in such a manner as led me to suppose that he was not altogether free from suspicion but that foul play had been practised towards him.

I was not mistaken in this conjecture, for on the next morning I was quite overpowered by this good matron informing me that her husband had reproached her with infidelity. I felt seriously hurt at this accusation, and although I was not quite recovered, yet, rather than continue under the same roof with a man capable of entertaining so unfounded an idea, I determined at once to quit and thus put an end to all further bickerings. Having apparently satisfied Evans of the fallacy of his suspicions, and remunerated both himself and wife handsomely for their trouble, I took the coach for London, where I arrived in the afternoon of the following day.

CHAPTER XXIV.

ON venturing abroad a few days after my arrival in town, I found to my great surprise, that the particulars of my trip towards Gretna Green, and the unlucky manner in which it had terminated, had preceded me; I was not a little provoked at this discovery, which I imagined was only known to a few. This rumour affected my practice to such an extent that a number of my clients, who prided themselves on being strict moralists, withdrew their countenance from me, and I had the mortification of seeing my business every day decline; so that in making a bold stroke for a wife with a small fortune, I lost the chance of making a considerable one in a few years by my own exertions.

From anxiety on this account, as well as having exposed myself too soon to the inclemency of the weather, it being in the month of December, I had a very severe relapse which threw me into a violent fever, from the fatal effects of which I narrowly escaped.

I now began to entertain serious thoughts of selling my practice, before it became totally unproductive, and was for some time on the look out for a purchaser.

Whilst in this suspense I brought an action for a person of the name of Harris against one

Foster, for goods sold and delivered. The defendant had pleaded in bar to the action that he had been discharged under the Insolvent Act, but in his schedule he neither inserted my client's name, nor had he served him with the usual notice. Upon the trial I was called upon by the defendant's counsel, whose name was Jolly, to admit both these facts; but this I declined to do, observing that they should be proved in the regular way. Whereupon Mr. Jolly, who was desirous of being jolly at my expense, waxed wrath, and in his address to the jury commenced a most violent tirade, and accused me of having speculated in the action with a view of making costs. I rose at once to repel this unwarrantable and unprofessional attack, and with a good deal of warmth disclaimed being actuated by any such sordid motive as that imputed to me, and that I was as incapable of doing any thing mean or dishonourable as the learned counsel himself, or any other man in existence. Upon hearing this Mr. Jolly, who seemed to have lost his temper, replied that I should have known better than to interrupt counsel, who, I must have been aware, always took precedence of attorneys. I protested against any such doctrine being recognized or countenanced, and resolutely maintained that there was no fixed principle upon which it was based, but that it was merely an assumption of privilege, and that I, as an individual, would never submit to it. The principle which I laid

down was, however, overruled by the presiding judge, who sarcastically remarked that it was a privilege recognized from time immemorial, and that he should very much regret to see the day when its correctness should be questioned. His lordship had no sooner expressed himself in this manner than I rose and contended in support of my former position. He now enjoined me to sit down, and not to interrupt the proceedings of the Court; I therefore yielded, having first deliberately declared that I should never again open my lips in a Court of Justice until I was on an equality with those who so zealously arrogated to themselves this peculiar superiority, and quitted the Court that instant, resolved to carry my assertions into execution.

My conscience on this occasion sanctioned what I had done, and I had likewise the satisfaction to imagine that, if it had not been entirely approved of, it had the approbation of the majority of those that were then in Court.

My first care after leaving the Court was to get a friend to wait upon Mr. Jolly, and demand from him satisfaction for the insult he had given; but that gentleman, who preferred declamation to powder and shot, declined to grant me the required meeting, on the plea that the language complained of was used in his professional capacity, and therefore he did not consider himself liable to be called on to make reparation; and added that he had only acted according to his

instructions, which informed him that the defendant had no defence to the action, and that all he had to do was to abuse the plaintiff's attorney as much as possible. I was both surprised and indignant on hearing these particulars through my friend—surprised at this novel mode of defending an action, and indignant at the refuge taken by Mr. Jolly under his professional mantle.

A few days subsequently to this affair I succeeded in disposing of my practice for nine hundred and fifty pounds; this sum and the outstanding debts that I was enabled to collect, put me in possession of upwards of thirteen hundred pounds.

In conformity with the declaration I had made in Court, I entered as a student in Lincoln's Inn, and, after having practised the most rigid economy and undergone the usual probationary terms, I was in due time called to the bar.

I took chambers in Middle Temple Lane, and regularly attended the different Courts, which I perambulated for nearly two years, without having earned sufficient even to pay for the powder of my wig.

The expenses incidental to my being called to the bar having nearly absorbed the money I had obtained by the sale of my practice, I continued during the greater part of the latter period to subsist on the residue, eked out by occasional remittances which I procured from my brother

Darby, who now carried on a very good trade as a butter merchant in his native city.

Meanwhile I became acquainted with several briefless barristers whose circumstances and prospects were not one whit better than my own; among these associates in adversity was a gentleman of the name of Richards, who was the son of a curate of the established church. As our dispositions were not dissimilar we became almost inseparable companions, and used to attend the courts together alike unprofitably, and console each other under our mutual disappointments by vituperations on the senseless attorneys who did not discover or appreciate our merits.

One day in our egress from Westminster-hall to a tavern hard by, having our gowns and wigs on, we encountered a bandy-legged sweep, who was so completely begrimed with soot that scarcely a feature of his countenance was visible. My friend, who was desirous of being merry at the poor fellow's expense, accosted him thus:—“What is the news, my boy, from hell?” The little fellow, with a scrutinizing glance perceiving what we were, answered, “Nothing, Sir, extraordinary, except that a great law-suit is going on there respecting a partition wall which separates the devil from the pope; the pope is for keeping it up, but the devil is for pulling it down.”—“And pray,” inquired Richards, “how do you think it will be decided?” “Why,” rejoined

the sweep, with the greatest composure, "I cannot say with certainty, the pope has most money, but the devil has most lawyers."

The impoverished state of our finances occasioned us, not unfrequently, to repair to a ground cellar, situated in the neighbourhood of Drury Lane, known by the more refined appellation of "The Diving Dining Rooms," to partake of a cheap snack. We visited this place by stealth, and then only when we had no money to get our dinners elsewhere, it being the rendezvous of coach cads and jarvies, at whose expense we sometimes feasted, and by whom we were dubbed by the unenviable appellation of "the poor lawyers." The proprietor of this retreat for satisfying the cravings of nature at a cheap rate, prided himself not a little on having us as his customers, as he imagined our occasional presence stamped his house with a degree of respectability; however, be that as it may, we contrived to run up a score to the amount of ten pounds odd, and having put off Mr. Barrow, who kept the house, with repeated promises of payment which were as often broken, he at length was prevailed upon to accept the joint and several promissory note of myself and Mr. Richards for the money. When the note became due neither my friend nor myself were in a situation to meet it, the consequence was that proceedings were had to judgment, upon which executions were issued; one morning I was arrested upon one of these, and

conveyed to one of those receptacles for the unfortunate, properly denominated sponging-houses.

I spent the afternoon of that day deliberating on the means of obtaining my release, unwilling to have recourse to the unwearied friendship of Jenks while any other expedient remained. At last I recollect a person whom I had rendered assistance to on several occasions, and who had in return assured me of his eternal gratitude and regard; to him I despatched a messenger, apprising him of my situation, and requesting his interposition in my behalf.

Next morning, whilst awaiting with impatience the arrival of this friend, I was not a little surprised on the youth who had officiated as waiter at the "Diving Dining Rooms" being shewn in; imagining that he had come to make some proposition on the part of his master, I desired to know the object for which he had been sent.— He replied that the visit was a voluntary act on his part, and only to be attributed to a desire to assist me; at the same time expressing a hope that I would not be offended at the liberty he had taken. I felt very much prepossessed in favour of George (the only name by which I knew him) to whom I tendered my thanks for his kindness, and assured him of my friendship in return. Upon this he sighed, and informed me that he had but a short time before heard of my arrest; that on hearing my name, which he had not pre-

viously known, it struck him so forcibly that he felt an instinctive desire to render me any assistance in his power; he further added, that he had managed to save a few pounds, which he pressed me to accept as a loan until it was convenient for me to repay him. I was penetrated with gratitude at this unsolicited act of generosity on the part of a youth moving in such a humble sphere of life, and whose conduct on this occasion appeared inexplicable.

As my curiosity was excited by the spontaneous feeling manifested by George in my behalf, I questioned him as to his name and place of nativity. He told me that his name was George Godfrey, and that he was born in the city of Cork; but, with regard to his parents, he said, he had no recollection of having ever seen them; that when he was a baby he had been entrusted to the care of a nurse, by whom he had been brought to this country; that she had made many ineffectual efforts to discover his parents, who had both come to England many years ago, and that, having been thus deserted by those who were by nature bound to succour and protect him, the poor woman to whose care he had been abandoned, procured him a place as errand boy when he was scarcely ten years old, and he had since that time managed to live by his own exertions; and not only had he done so, but he had in some measure requited his foster-mother for the trouble his parents had entailed upon her.

I began to feel an uncommon interest as George unfolded these particulars, and, my curiosity being now wound up to the highest pitch, I made some further inquiries; in answer to which he observed, "My mother's name was Godfrey, and that is the name I was called by, for what reason I could never learn, but I have often heard the nurse say that my father's name was Fagg, and that he was a lawyer."

Words are inadequate to depict the emotions of my soul on hearing these words pronounced; a conviction rushed on my mind that this was my long-neglected son! I started up and clasped him in my arms, and, bursting into tears, fell upon his neck in a transport of joy, unable to articulate a single sentence. At length, recovering the use of speech, I exclaimed "Thou art indeed my son! and I am that unhappy father to whom you allude." The youth himself seemed lost in amazement, and, almost doubting his senses, wept in his turn.

In the midst of this scene my friend Richards made his appearance; I imagined that he had come to pay me a visit, but in this he soon undeceived me, by observing that he was sent to bear me company, at the suit of the same plaintiff for the identical debt for which I was in custody, and could not refrain from laughing heartily at the singularity of the circumstance which had procured us this meeting. I felt too much excited to join in his mirth, and remarked

that the inscrutable decrees of divine Providence had, just before his arrival, ordained me a much more extraordinary meeting with this youth, in whom I had found a long-lost son. Richards congratulated me on my discovery, but said he was not at all surprised at it, for he had often observed the youth gazing very earnestly upon me, and, from the strong resemblance in our features, had been led to think that if he was not "a chip of the old block," he was a branch of the same family; he added, that he had sometimes been half-inclined to banter me on the subject, but was restrained by the fear that it might be touching a tender part.

The friend to whom I had written now arrived; with the assistance which he was enabled to afford, and the small sum advanced by my son, I succeeded in obtaining both the discharge of myself and Richards.

In order to remove every doubt that might possibly exist with regard to my son, I accompanied him the same afternoon to the nurse, who seemed to have a perfect recollection of my features, although it was nearly eighteen years since she had seen me. She fully corroborated all that he had stated, and said, that for some years after Miss Godfrey's departure from Ireland she received frequent remittances from her, which enabled her to support the boy, that these failing she came to this country, with the intention of resigning her charge to his parents, but not be-

ing able to discover them, she continued to do the best she could until he was able to shift for himself.

I despatched a letter to George's mother, ap- prizing her of the strange occurrence ; this mode I thought preferable to his calling upon her, lest her feelings on his sudden appearance might betray her. She called shortly after the receipt of it at my chambers, and her joy on beholding her son may be readily imagined. As soon as her first transports had subsided we deliberated on the best means of providing for him, and mutually agreed that I should endeavour to procure him an engagement in an attorney's office.

Out of evil sometimes comes good, and so I found it in this instance, for had it not been for my arrest at the suit of Barrow, it is rather doubtful if ever I should have met with my son, at least so as to have known him. As it now became necessary that he should be provided for I succeeded a few days subsequently in obtaining for him a situation in an attorney's office, where I determined he should continue until my circumstances should assume a more favourable aspect.

Necessity, it has been observed, is the mother of invention ; it certainly was with me, for I was now reduced to such extremities that it became incumbent on me to take some decisive step in order to avert that penury and distress with which I was threatened.

To meet daily necessities I invaded the profession of the humbler class of reporters, usually denominated penny-a-line men, and selected the Sessions and Police offices as the sphere of my operations. When those places became barren of news, I had to draw upon my invention for the deficiency; how many barbarous and inhuman murders and determined suicides did I not perpetrate in my imagination, which I almost daily hashed up and sent through the medium of the press to the world as indisputable facts.

A liar is sooner or later sure to be exposed, and this was my fate; my lies were so palpable and glaring that they did not escape the lash of my opponents; a wordy warfare ensued, which led to an infinite variety of pros and cons, and which my worthy patrons very unceremoniously put an end to by determining to receive no more of the effusions of my fertile imagination which in the slightest degree bordered on the horrible.

In this dilemma I had to descend from the horrible to the ridiculous, and to try my hand at some harmless piece of raillery, such as the freaks of a tar, or some domestic disagreement between some unhappy couple whose earthly happiness had fled; but I very soon found out these incidents did not yield that resource which I at first calculated upon, and determined on relinquishing them as subjects beneath my notice.

My practice in this line, however, enabled me to obtain an engagement with a proprietor of one

of the minor journals, to report the proceedings of the House of Commons, whose sittings I regularly attended, and contributed to send forth to the world the midnight lucubrations of some of the collective wisdom of the nation, a great portion of which, I must candidly confess, was sorry stuff. How often have I burked, to use a technical phrase, the harangues of many M. P.'s who expected to have three or four columns devoted to their orations, and which I disposed of in as many lines, because I had imbibed some pique against them, or they had rendered themselves in some manner obnoxious to some of my brothers of the quill.

In this manner I added another year to the two preceding ones; but I soon grew weary and dissatisfied at spending my time so unprofitably, and often regretted the precipitate step I had taken in aspiring to a rank which I had not funds to support, instead of having contented myself with the less dignified station of an attorney; and this dissatisfaction was further increased on reflecting how my finances had been exhausted.

One evening, whilst ruminating over my almost hopeless condition and the prospect of approaching want, I was suddenly startled by a loud knocking at the door of my chambers, and presently a man of respectable appearance entered, in whom I recognized a Mr. Nelson, a gentleman who had had some slight transactions with me when I practised as an attorney. He

saluted me very civilly, and immediately proceeded to make known the object of his visit. "I am come," said he, "to consult you on a very complicated business: Clients of mine, who are very poor men, are entitled to considerable property as next of kin to a party recently deceased; there are various other parties who claim in a similar character. A suit has been instituted in the Court of Chancery, and an issue directed to ascertain who are the next of kin; our opponents are rich and powerful, and as they will strain every nerve to defeat the just claims of my clients, it behoves us therefore to leave nothing undone to counteract their efforts. I shall have occasion, from time to time, to consult you on many important points arising out of the cause, in getting up evidence, and on other matters, and if you will undertake the business, the parties have consented that an agreement shall be drawn up, by which one thousand pounds each shall be secured to us in case we succeed in establishing their claims, independent of the usual charges; so that it will be with us, in fact, "No cure no pay." I promised Mr. Nelson to look into the papers which he left with me for that purpose, and if I thought, after perusing them, that there was the least probability of success, I should not object to embark in the business on the terms proposed.

I spent the remainder of the evening and nearly the whole of the next day in examining the

pedigree of the several claimants, which appeared to be so very satisfactory that I did not hesitate to undertake the advocacy of their cause on the conditions offered. I communicated to Mr. Nelson the result of my deliberations, who shortly after the receipt of it, forwarded me the necessary agreement for my approval. This was executed on the following day by the several parties interested.

For nearly two months subsequently my time was principally occupied on this cause, pointing out every minute and apparently insignificant circumstance which I thought might in any manner tend to strengthen the claims of these poor men.

On the issue coming on to be tried at the Guildford Assizes in the year 1830, a verdict was returned in their favour, with others, who were respectively declared to be next of kin to the deceased. I had on this occasion the satisfaction of hearing the judge who presided bear testimony to the able and efficient manner in which I had conducted the cause of my clients. Upon the return of the issue into the Court of Chancery, the three Jamesons, for whom I was concerned, received between them about twelve thousand pounds, clear of all deductions.

Having thus wound up this my maiden attempt, and received the money stipulated to be paid pursuant to the agreement entered into, I lost no time in discharging my pecuniary obliga-

tions to my friend Jenks; I also furnished a house with a portion of it, and took my son as my clerk.

Being now enabled to go on circuit, I soon became what is termed in legal phraseology, a "leading man," and the fame of my success having been blazoned in the capital, in a short time I was in as much repute there as on the circuit.

This celebrity soon attained for me the rank of one of his Majesty's counsel, which dignified station I now hold, with a prospect of still further advancement. My practice since my elevation has continued to increase, and now realizes from three to four thousand pounds per annum. But the gratification of my ambition was not without alloy; the pleasure which I experienced on account of my promotion was considerably lessened by the intelligence of the death of my parents, which occurred about that period; and it was some time before I could divest myself of the sorrow into which that melancholy event plunged me.

Being now accustomed, from the eminence I had attained in my profession, to mix in the first circles of fashion, I naturally looked about for a partner with whom I might share the happiness of domestic life; but vain were my endeavours to select one congenial to my feelings. The possession of Emily Pelham alone was wanting to complete my earthly happiness; but, alas! when I reflected that nearly twenty years had elapsed

since our separation, and that all correspondence for a great portion of that period had ceased altogether, I gave up all thoughts of her as perfectly hopeless; my long absence and the importunity of her friends had doubtless succeeded in prevailing upon her to bestow her hand upon my rival Curzon.

These notions haunted my imagination almost continually, and one evening in particular they preyed so heavily upon my mind that in order to dispel my gloom I called a coach and directed to be driven to Covent Garden theatre. I had scarcely taken my seat in a box, when a stout gentleman who was sitting there looked steadfastly at me, and continued his scrutinizing stare for some time. I was far from being pleased at this piece of ill-breeding, and arose from my seat with an intention of getting rid of this impertinence; just as I was about to move, the stranger pulled me gently by the skirt of the coat, and in a very respectful manner desired to know if my name was not Fagg. Upon my answering in the affirmative, he leaped upon me in a transport of joy and encircled me in his arms, to the no small amusement of those in the adjoining boxes. I was not a little astonished at this strange behaviour, and as soon as I could disengage myself from the stranger's embrace I desired to know the cause of this extraordinary conduct; whereupon he exclaimed in true milesian style, "Arrah! Mr. Fagg, don't you recol-

lect your old school-fellow Gallivan?" On this exclamation I considered him with much earnestness, and in some measure recalling his features, inquired if he were not one of those who took a part in the breach affair with O'Shaughnessy. "Och, the very same," he cried. On hearing this I shook him by the hand and expressed much pleasure at seeing him. Without waiting for the conclusion of the performance, we retired, and having invited Mr. Gallivan to supper, we proceeded to my residence in Torrington Square.

On our way thither Mr. Gallivan desired to know some particulars of my fortune since our separation from school. I complied with his request, and briefly related some of the principal vicissitudes I had encountered. He seemed much amazed at the difficulties I had experienced, and not a little delighted on hearing of my present elevation. After supper I desired in my turn to be favoured with some circumstances connected with my friend's career, who satisfied me in a few words, by giving me to understand that after he had quitted O'Shaughnessey's school he was bound apprentice to an apothecary; that his master having failed in business before the completion of the term of his servitude, he visited London, where, after undergoing some privations, he succeeded in obtaining employ as a chemist's assistant, in which capacity he had so well acquitted himself as to acquire the good opinion

of his employer, through whose bounty he was enabled to obtain a diploma as surgeon, and that he was then residing in Bloomsbury Square, in possession of a very respectable practice. "I have," continued he, "recently visited my native country, and it was stated by some that you were practising at the English bar with considerable success; whilst others were of a different opinion, and alleged that you had died abroad.—Among the latter class I am informed is the lady that you rescued from the cave, whose nuptials with Mr. Curzon were to be celebrated in about a fortnight from the time that I quitted, which is exactly ten days since."

It would be impossible to describe my feelings on hearing the latter part of this narrative; I remained absorbed in amazement for some time. At length recovering from my stupor I intimated my determination of setting out next day for Ireland, and giving, in *propria persona*, the direct lie to the story which I had no doubt had been circulated by my detested rival Curzon relative to my death. Dr. Gallivan approved of my determination, and remarked that if the marriage had not taken place before my arrival, my presence would at all events afford Miss Pelham an opportunity of evincing her attachment towards me.

CHAPTER XXV.

HAVING made the necessary arrangements I set out the next day on my intended journey, and after an expeditious passage landed in the city of Cork, from whence I took my place in the mail, and arrived late in the evening of the fourth day. I took up my quarters at an hotel within a few miles of the mansion of Mr. Pelham. The news of my arrival spread like wildfire, and the inn was literally besieged by a host of visitors who called to pay their respects to me; but their attentions I resolved to dispense with until a more fitting occasion.

My immediate object was to set on foot every inquiry as to whether Miss Pelham had been actually married or not; but all the intelligence I could obtain was from one of the waiters at the hotel, who informed me, that chancing to meet that very day an old fellow-servant of his in the street, who was now in the service of the family of Mr. Curzon, he had learnt from him that that gentleman was going to be married the next morning to a lady of the name of Pelham.

This intelligence stung me to the soul, and in the first transports of my rage I resolved either to challenge my rival to mortal combat, and thus at once determine our pretensions to the hand of Miss Pelham, or to proceed to the house of

Mr. Pelham and demand a fulfilment of his daughter's pledge, which my rank and station in society fully warranted me in doing. While hesitating which of these extremes to adopt, a third course presented itself to my mind which, after a little reflection, appeared preferable to either : this was to apprise Miss Pelham by a letter of the fact of my being so near at hand, and thus afford her an opportunity of testifying that affectionate regard which at one time she professed to entertain for me. Accordingly I took up my pen and after sundry scratchings and blottings penned an epistle which ran thus :

" My dearest Emily,

After an absence of nearly twenty years, I have returned to claim your fair hand, which I would fain hope has not yet been bestowed upon another, and that you still cherish a vivid recollection of the vow which we then reciprocally entered into, namely, that nothing but death should separate us. This vow has been my solace in adversity, and cheered me on to attain a distinguished position in society. I write this from an inn in the next town, and shall repair to night, precisely at nine o'clock, to the porter's lodge, when I hope to have the pleasure of pressing to my aching bosom that lovely form upon which I have so often gazed with rapture, until then believe me, dearest Emily,

Yours most affectionately,

M. Fagg."

As soon as I had sealed this letter I despatched it by one of the servants belonging to the inn, with a desire that he should take a post-chaise (it being five miles distant) and not return without an answer. After an anxious interval of three hours the messenger returned, bringing back word that he had delivered my letter to the porter at the lodge, who took it up to the house, and after waiting some time was told that Miss Pelham was so particularly engaged that she could not be seen nor the letter delivered to her. I ordered fresh horses to be put to the chaise, with which I immediately returned, and found myself at the lodge just as the clock struck nine. The gate was opened by the old porter whom I recollect to have seen about twenty years before, and who in a grumbling voice desired to know the nature of my business. Upon my expressing a wish to have a letter conveyed to Miss Pelham, he said that was impossible, as she had either retired to rest or was so busy making preparations for her wedding, which was to take place the next morning, that she could not be disturbed.

Not satisfied with this denial, I asked the old porter if years had so altered me that he did not recollect Mr. Fagg? At the mention of this name he held a lamp with a glimmering light up to my face, and after having surveyed me from head to foot exclaimed, "By my shoul and shalvashun and it is the very same Mr. Fagg that

people said was long ago dead and buried, and for whom my young lady has been so long grieving!"

Immediately upon this recognition I was invited into the lodge, where I waited for some time without the object of my solicitude making her appearance. During this interval the old man confirmed what had been related to me by my friend Gallivan, relative to the report of my death abroad, which, he said, his young mistress believing, she had at last consented to bestow her hand upon Mr. Curzon; "but I am certain sure," added he, "she would never have done that same thing, if she could have had any hope of ever setting her eyes on so fine a gentleman as yourself again."

Growing impatient with the prolixity of the old man, I rose abruptly and desired he would go directly to the house, and ascertain whether Miss Pelham had received the letter which had been forwarded some hours before; cautioning him, at the same time, not to mention to any one that I was at the lodge, unless he should see the lady herself. "I shall do as you desire, Mr. Fagg, though I don't wish to be consarned in sich business, but I's willing to sarve you," replied the porter, and he hobbled away to execute my commands. After a tedious absence of nearly half an hour he returned with the mortifying intelligence that she had just retired to rest, and that she could not be disturbed on any account.

Rendered desperate by this information, I paced the lodge to and fro in a state of mind bordering on distraction; lost in conjecture, and unable to resolve the perplexity of my thoughts into any fixed determination. As I was on the eve of departing from the lodge, the old porter, observing my agitation, suggested the propriety of placing myself in some conspicuous situation the next day, so that I might be seen by the bride, either in the church or on the way thither, who would doubtless recollect me, and if she still loved me would then manifest her sentiments.

As a distempered mind will grasp at any thing likely to cure or alleviate the cause of its disorder, so it was with me; I laid hold of this suggestion, visionary as it was, with avidity, and hoped to turn it to some advantage next day.— Having given proofs of my bounty to my adviser I took my departure and returned to the inn late at night, overwhelmed with my agitated feelings.

This night was to me a most restless one; to describe my agitated feelings language is inadequate. I rose early the next morning, and, having set off my person to the best advantage, proceeded towards the church and stationed myself near the entrance long before the hour fixed for the celebration of the marriage. I waited with indescribable anxiety until the important hour arrived, and immediately after three carriages drove up to the church door; on the first being

opened I instantly recognized Mr. Pelham and two elderly gentlemen, who alighted; but on the second being opened, Heaven and earth! how shall I paint my situation on beholding the adored Emily about to become the wife of another—and that other my hated and detested rival—the idea was intolerable. My brain was almost turned, and I stood as immovable as a rock, and was for some minutes entranced. The ceremony had already began before I recovered, when with faltering steps I reached the altar, just opposite the intended couple, who, however, were intercepted from my view by their friends and relatives. The ceremony had now proceeded so far as that part where the clergyman interrogates whether the lady will have the party named for her lawful and wedded husband; just before the important and irrevocable affirmative "I will," was uttered, I rushed forward for the purpose of upbraiding her, and pushed those who stood before me so unceremoniously as to cause a momentary confusion. At this instant the disorder thus occasioned by me having attracted the attention of the clergyman, as well as those present, not excepting the lovely bride, her eyes happening to alight upon me, they became fixed in an instant, and upon the question being repeated, the response that she returned was a loud shriek and fell senseless to the ground. I rushed immediately to her assistance; in a short time the eyes of the whole company were

fixed upon me, and they seemed struck dumb with amazement when I was recognized as the gentleman who had twenty years previously rescued the intended bride from the power of the banditti, and had always been looked upon as her betrothed husband.

In the interim I was most assiduously engaged in applying the remedies usual on such occasions; but whilst so occupied, the bridegroom, whom my unexpected presence discomposed not a little, imagining that his province had been invaded, endeavoured to supplant me and take my place. I pushed him back with a frown of indignation and disdain, at the same time letting him know that nothing but the place we were then in could have sheltered him from my just resentment; and that I expected that he would not again skulk off without affording me that satisfaction which I had a right to demand in consequence of his treacherous and cowardly behaviour. This he promised haughtily to afford me on a fitting opportunity.

The object of all our solicitude on opening her eyes rivetted them upon me; but, good Heaven! what were the throbings of my heart on hearing her pronounce with a timid accent, "Oh Heaven! it is he! it is he!" which exclamation she had no sooner given utterance to than she again swooned away. This sudden relapse filled me with the utmost alarm; but in a short time I was happily relieved by perceiving symptoms

of returning animation, and proper restoratives being applied, she gradually recovered, to the unspeakable joy of all present.

As soon as she had a little recollected herself and somewhat composed her spirits, words are inadequate to convey even an imperfect description of the unutterable fondness with which she seemed to gaze upon me, and the pleasure which appeared to beam in her beauteous countenance on my identity being placed beyond a doubt.

Miss Pelham having been now quite recovered her father testified much pleasure at seeing me after so long an absence, and indeed the whole company, except the disconsolate bridegroom and his friends, who could scarcely credit their senses.

In the midst of this scene, which had more the appearance of a dream than reality, the clergyman retired; on his re-appearance, at the instance of Mr. Curzon, to complete the marriage ceremony, Mr Pelham declined to allow it to be proceeded with until he had at least consulted the inclinations of his daughter, whom, he said, he would on no account coerce, but leave entirely to her own unbiased choice, and retired with her for that purpose.

He had not been long absent before he returned, and observed that the ceremony could not at present be proceeded with, but should be deferred until a future day, his daughter not being in a state of mind befitting such an occasion. Upon hearing this declaration, which convinced me of

the unalterable affection of Miss Pelham, all my fears forsook me, and the dawn of hope once more diffused itself in my bosom.

The parties now resolved to return to the mansion of Mr. Pelham; that gentleman, his wife, and daughter travelled in one carriage, while I and the bride's uncle took possession of another, the dejected bridegroom and his friends bringing up the rear. In this manner we reached the residence of Mr. Pelham, where a sumptuous repast, designed for the nuptial feast, was served up with the utmost elegance, to which we all sat down with the exception of Miss Pelham, whose presence was dispensed with on this occasion,

The conversation naturally turned upon the singular events of the day, to which my unexpected presence had given rise; common report having long since numbered me with the dead. I laid hold of this opportunity to observe that I was well aware of the author of that report, who no doubt had his own selfish motives for propagating it, but that before many days would elapse I should unmash him to the world both as a liar and calumniator. Upon this my adversary observed that he was not to be intimidated by threats, and that he should at any time be prepared to vindicate the line of conduct he had thought fit to pursue upon this as well as upon every other occasion. Having thus given vent to my feelings I retired, after having taken leave

of the company, particularly of Mr. Pelham and his lady, by whom I was escorted into the presence of their lovely daughter, who gave me fresh assurances of her eternal fidelity.

I returned late at night to the inn, scarcely believing my senses, and having procured pen, ink and paper, I addressed a letter to Mr. Curzon in the following words :—

"Sir,

I demand that you will immediately make a public apology for your behaviour towards me, which I have no hesitation in stigmatizing as ungentlemanly, malignant, and cowardly. The conduct I complain of is your having circulated a report that I had died abroad, which you knew at the time to be destitute of any foundation, and not content with this, you have had the baseness to invent another equally false, namely, that I had been convicted of burglary. If you decline to make a suitable apology for this conduct, I require you to name a gentleman on your behalf on whom a friend of mine will call to make the necessary arrangements for a meeting. Of the two alternatives you are at perfect liberty to select which you please.

I am, &c.

Michael Fagg."

This letter I handed to a servant with directions that it should be delivered as early as possible the next morning, and retired to rest highly elated with the extraordinary events of the day.

I slept very little that night, but getting up early next morning I found that the servant had already proceeded in the execution of my commission ; I had scarcely been seated to breakfast before he returned with an answer, which ran as follows :—

“Sir,

Of the two alternatives proposed in your letter, I prefer that of giving you the meeting you desire ; my friend Captain Roberts, of Newberry, will be prepared to confer with any person whom you may name, and will arrange accordingly.

I am, &c.

Frederic Curzon.”

On perusing this I despatched a messenger to a Mr. Vincent, a very respectable attorney residing in the town, and who had been an intimate friend of my uncle Cheek, with a request that he would call upon me without delay. The messenger had not been long absent before he returned, accompanied by that gentleman. On explaining to him the nature of the affair in which I required his assistance, he readily consented to act as my friend, and quitted without a moment's hesitation to arrange the place and time with the party referred to. He returned in the course of the day, to inform me that the preliminaries had been arranged, and that the meeting was fixed for four o'clock in the afternoon at a place about a mile distant, adding that

he would call at the inn a short time previously, and accompany me to the ground at the time appointed.

Every thing being arranged as satisfactorily as I could desire, I repaired in a post chaise to the residence of Mr. Pelham. My welcome by that gentleman and his lady exceeded my most sanguine expectations, but their reception fell far short of that which I met with from Miss Pelham, in whom years had made but little alteration; on the contrary, I fancied that she looked more beautiful and blooming than ever, having attained that zenith of perfection when woman can be seen to the greatest advantage.

Our conversation, which was restrained in some measure by the presence of her parents, having turned upon my present circumstances, I briefly recapitulated my rise and progress, and the eminence I had attained in my profession; upon which they congratulated me, and expressed much satisfaction at my elevation.

The time fixed for the meeting now drawing near, I deposited with Miss Pelham a testamentary paper in the nature of a Will, by which I left the bulk of my property, amounting to about ten thousand pounds, to that lady, excepting thereout a few legacies to my immediate friends, and appointed her sole executrix; I accompanied this document with a request that it should not be unsealed till the following day, and then took my departure, promising to renew my visit next

morning; if nothing happened in the mean time to obstruct my intention:

I had scarcely reached the porter's lodge before I espied a carriage approach, and instantly recognized my rival and his father; and another gentleman, who appeared a stranger to me, and who passed on without deigning to notice me. I got into the chaise which waited for me and returned to the inn, where I had not long been before Mr. Vincent called pursuant to his promise, and with whom I proceeded to the place of assignation, where my opponent and his seconds had already arrived.

The preliminaries having been arranged, we took our places at a proper distance from each other; and on the signal being given we exchanged shots, but no injury resulted therefrom except the knot of my cravat being shot off.—Just as we were preparing to discharge a second pistol, a gentleman on horseback was seen to approach in the direction where we stood; and on his coming up we immediately recognized Mr. Pelham, who came to act the part of a mediator between us. "I have heard by chance of this hostile meeting," said he; "and I hastened hither to prevent it if possible; I have been invariably opposed to this inhuman and anti-christian way of deciding differences, which certainly is no criterion of a man's courage; on the contrary it is an incontrovertible fact, which almost every day's experience confirms, that

many who engage in duels are poltroons, destitute of a particle of manly or noble spirit, and whose chief object is to obtain notoriety; but a truce to this. I understand that my daughter is, unintentionally I am certain, the cause of this meeting, and I have therefore to request that you will suspend hostilities for the present, as the idea of being, however innocently, the cause of the death of either of you, would indeed make her miserable for life. But as I am not a stranger to the fact that you are both rivals for her hand, if you will favour me with your company in an hour from this time, you shall hear from her own lips, unbiassed and uninfluenced by me, which is the object of her choice.

The justness and propriety of these observations was admitted by all present except myself, who absolutely refused to comply therewith until my adversary had signed a declaration expressive of his regret at having been instrumental in propagating reports injurious to my character, and his belief of their being utterly groundless. This he agreed to do as soon as we had reached a tavern where the necessary requisites could be had. Upon this understanding we quitted the ground, and all proceeded, at the express desire of Mr. Pelham, to his residence, where a sumptuous entertainment was provided.

The company having taken their seats indiscriminately, the beauteous Emily, who was the

great source of attraction, and upon whom all eyes were riveted, took her place between her father and mother, and seemed overwhelmed with diffidence. As soon as every body had partaken abundantly of what was set before them, Mr. Pelham rose and addressed his guests as detailed in the next chapter.

CHAPTER XXVI.

“ I have assembled you here, my friends, this evening pursuant to my promise, to bear testimony to my daughter’s choice. These two gentlemen (pointing to me and Mr. Curzon) have severally put forth pretensions to the hand of my daughter, one is the son of a worthy and excellent clergyman residing in the immediate neighbourhood, highly esteemed and deservedly respected, and whose presence restrains me from expatiating at any length on his public and private worth; the other is a gentleman who has, unaided and alone, attained nearly to the summit of his profession, and to whom, I will not conceal the fact, I am indebted for the restoration of my daughter and the pleasure which I now enjoy; without expressing any opinion of my own on the merits of these gentlemen, I shall leave her to determine which of the two she will select as her future partner for life.”

During the delivery of these remarks by Mr. Pelham, and for some minutes subsequently, a death-like silence reigned: the eyes of all the company were directed towards Miss Pelham, and if the fate of empires had depended on her determination, she could not have been looked up to with greater reverence and awe. This silence was at length broken by Mr. Pelham, who, repeating his interrogatory, followed it up by encouraging his daughter at once to declare her sentiments; after considerable reluctance she expressed herself thus:—

“With respect to Mr. Curzon, to whom I was about to be allied, I consider him a very worthy man, and one whom I am led to think would make any woman happy; yet I confess my acquiescence with the wishes of my friends, was wrung from me by their incessant importunity rather than the result of my own unfettered inclinations; my parents were not certainly aware that there was another person upon whom my affections had long been riveted, and though separated as we have been for nearly twenty years, yet up to the present moment I have cherished a most grateful remembrance of the perils and dangers he encountered for me, and that to him I am indebted for the happiness of being restored to my friends and to society, and were I to prefer another to him, I should indeed consider myself unworthy and ungrateful.”

Words are inadequate to convey even an im-

perfect idea of the emotions of my soul on hearing this decision, which was delivered in so calm and dignified a manner, tempered with so much good sense and judgment as to elicit the unqualified applause of every body present except the Curzons and their friends, who felt so mortified at the result that they abruptly quitted the house without even deigning to conform to the accustomed etiquette usually observed on retiring.

I was so transported with unspeakable joy that I was for a while deprived of the power of utterance; at length, recovering myself, I clasped in my arms the dear object of all my hope, and in an ecstacy of indescribable bliss exclaimed, "Oh, adorable Emily! I at last press thee to my heart, and can call thee mine: Fortune has at length amply recompensed me for all my sufferings in the possession of thee." I tenderly embraced her, and tasted in advance a portion of that bliss which I hoped in a short time wholly to possess; whereupon she chid me with such ineffable sweetness that I was almost tempted to repeat the offence, had she not reminded me of my being in the presence of others.

My transports having gradually subsided, I took my place beside the darling of my soul, and received the compliments and congratulations of the company.

The deed of settlement which had been executed in contemplation of Miss Pelham's marriage to Mr. Curzon, by which five thousand

pounds, being her marriage portion, was invested in the names of trustees, now became the subject of conversation. Upon my opinion being asked for, I observed that I could not say with certainty what effect it might have or what construction to put upon it, not having seen the deed, but that if the trusts' taking effect depended, which they generally did, upon the solemnization of the marriage, as that event had not taken place they became nugatory and inoperative; so far, however, as I was concerned, this would never cause me a moment's uneasiness, nor would it I hoped to any person present; that I had by my own exertions realized sufficient to live in independent circumstances, and that Miss Pelham with five thousand pounds, or Miss Pelham without a farthing was equally dear to me.

This generous and disinterested behaviour made a visible impression on every one present, and on none more than on the susceptible heart of Miss Pelham; our marriage was now fixed to take place in three days.

I did not separate from the delight of my soul until the night was pretty far advanced; when I returned to the inn, dwelling with insatiable delight on the interesting and extraordinary events of the day, and contemplating nothing but days of future bliss and felicity.

The next day Emily desired to know some circumstances connected with myself since our separation. In this I gratified her inclination,

and detailed some of the principal events of my life, the recital of which brought tears into her lovely eyes, but which gradually disappeared as I proceeded to disclose the particulars of that period which embraced my good fortune. Upon interrogating her with respect to the letters I had addressed to her from London, she informed me that she had never received any, and that if they had been sent they must have been intercepted by some person, as they had never come to hand. "The non-receipt of any communication from you," said she, "induced me to give credence to the rumour that had been propagated respecting your death abroad, but I have recently learned that my father many years ago wrote you a very angry letter, in consequence of some misrepresentations made by Mr. Curzon." I explained to her the circumstances connected with my apprehension and examination before the magistrate in as delicate terms as possible, and produced my rival's letter expressive of his regret at having given circulation to them, but she smilingly interrupted me, observing that she had too high an opinion of my honour and integrity to doubt for a moment my veracity.

I spent the few intervening days in all that harmless and innocent amusement which generally precedes an expected alliance.

At length the morning of my wedding day arrived, when I rose, and having dressed myself with more than ordinary attention, I was what

the ladies would call a good-looking fellow. I led my beautiful and blushing bride to the hymeneal altar, where we ratified our mutual vows of love and fidelity; on our way back we were met by an immense concourse of people, by whom we were loudly greeted, amongst them I scattered a considerable sum in silver, for which they scrambled with much earnestness, and in downright good humour.

We had scarcely been seated to a sumptuous entertainment when a parcel arrived for Mr. Pelham, which on opening was found to contain the deed of settlement cancelled. As Emily's fortune was now restored, I was consulted with regard to the manner in which it was to be disposed of; but I desired it should be settled on my wife and her heirs for ever, in whose possession I am pretty certain it will not be her fault if its value is decreased.

I had the infinite pleasure, too, of having the marriage ceremony performed by my old friend Wheeler, with whom I laughed heartily over our freak with the frail pair in Bristol, by whom we had been fleeced of our money. From him I learnt that as soon as he had obtained his clerical qualifications he returned to his native town, and obtained a curacy that chanced to be vacant, upon the income of which, amounting to sixty pounds a year, he had contrived to support his wife and three children for nearly fifteen years. After I had condoled with my friend on

the tardiness of church promotion, and put him in possession of the leading events of my successful career, I placed in his hands a draft for two hundred pounds, observing that he could pay the advance when he was elevated to a bish- oprie. My friend gratefully received the loan, which he promised to repay long before he had reached that dignity.

For several days subsequently to my marriage I continued to receive the warm and hearty congratulations of most of the gentry residing in the neighbourhood, who testified their pleasure on so auspicious an occasion.

After an absence of nearly three months I returned with my wife and two servants to my residence in Torrington Square, where we arrived on the 10th of August, 1834. Soon after my arrival I exchanged my residence for another in —— Square, where I now reside.

Since then I have had a visit from Lady C—, who called to congratulate me on the prond eminence I had attained in my profession, and to retain me in a cause in which she was interested respecting the validity of a will, upon the establishment of which her ladyship would become entitled to an additional five hundred a year. I need scarcely observe that I readily undertook the task assigned to me, and I am proud to record that my efforts were crowned with victory. Her ladyship felt so sensible of the services that I had rendered her, that next morning I received

a letter from her enclosing a check on her bankers for two hundred guineas. I returned it on the same day, under cover to her ladyship, informing her, that until I had in some measure discharged the many obligations which I formerly experienced at her hands, I could not for a moment think of accepting any thing in the shape of fee or reward for any services that I had or might render. Since then I have had repeated visits from her ladyship, who has recently given me to understand that she is on the eve of again entering into the holy bands of wedlock with a colonel in the Coldstream guards, who is about the same age as herself; Lady C——'s daughter having recently married a captain in the same corps.

George Godfrey has lately commenced practice as an attorney; O'Leary and Farrell are still living and in pretty tolerable circumstances; and my friend Jenks has some time since filled the high and important office of one of the sheriffs of the city of London with credit to himself and advantage to his fellow-citizens.

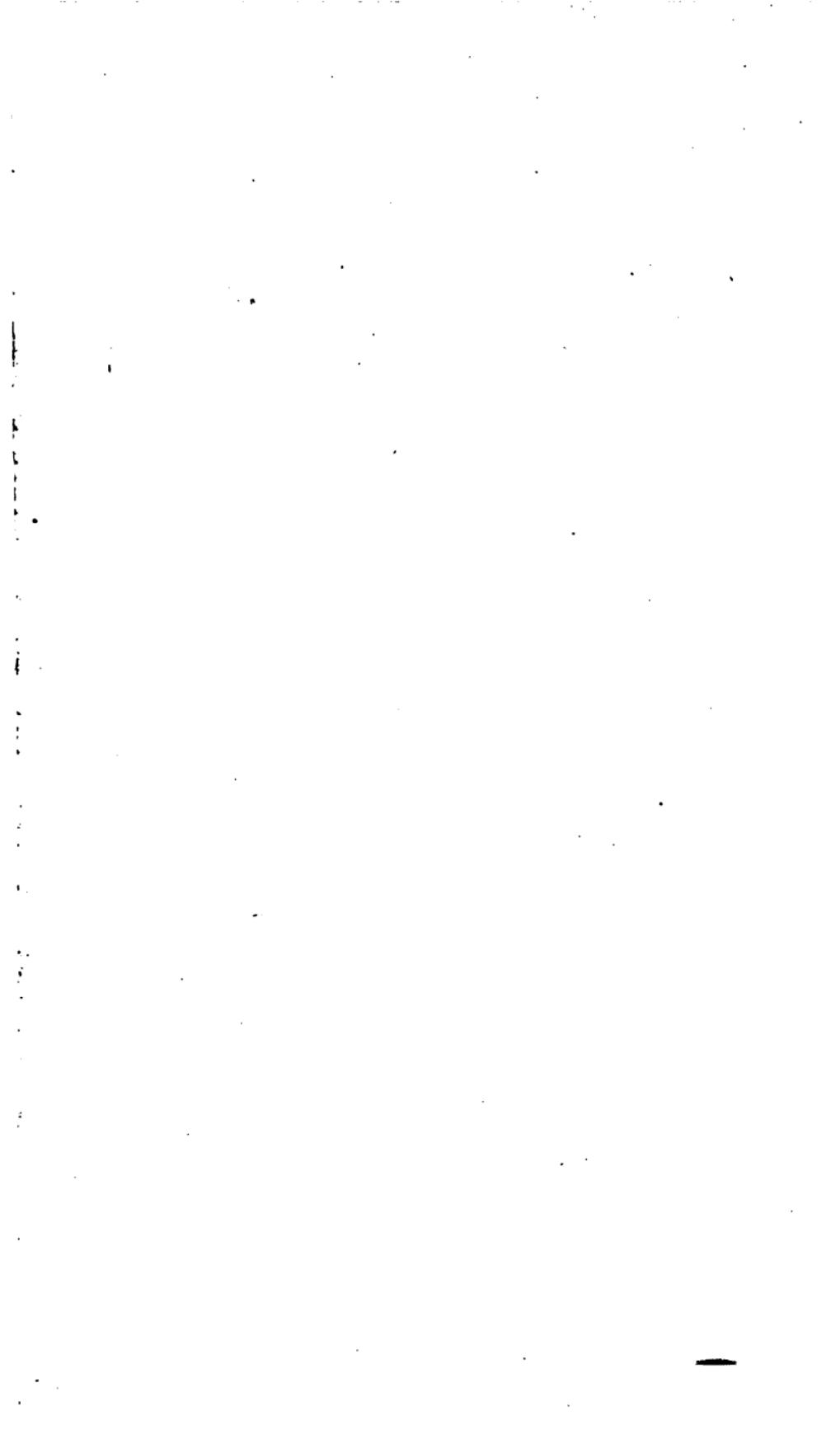
My brother Darby, who still continues a bachelor, is one of the oldest and most respectable merchants in his native city, and in case I should chance to survive him, I expect to inherit the greater part of his wealth, which is supposed to be very considerable.

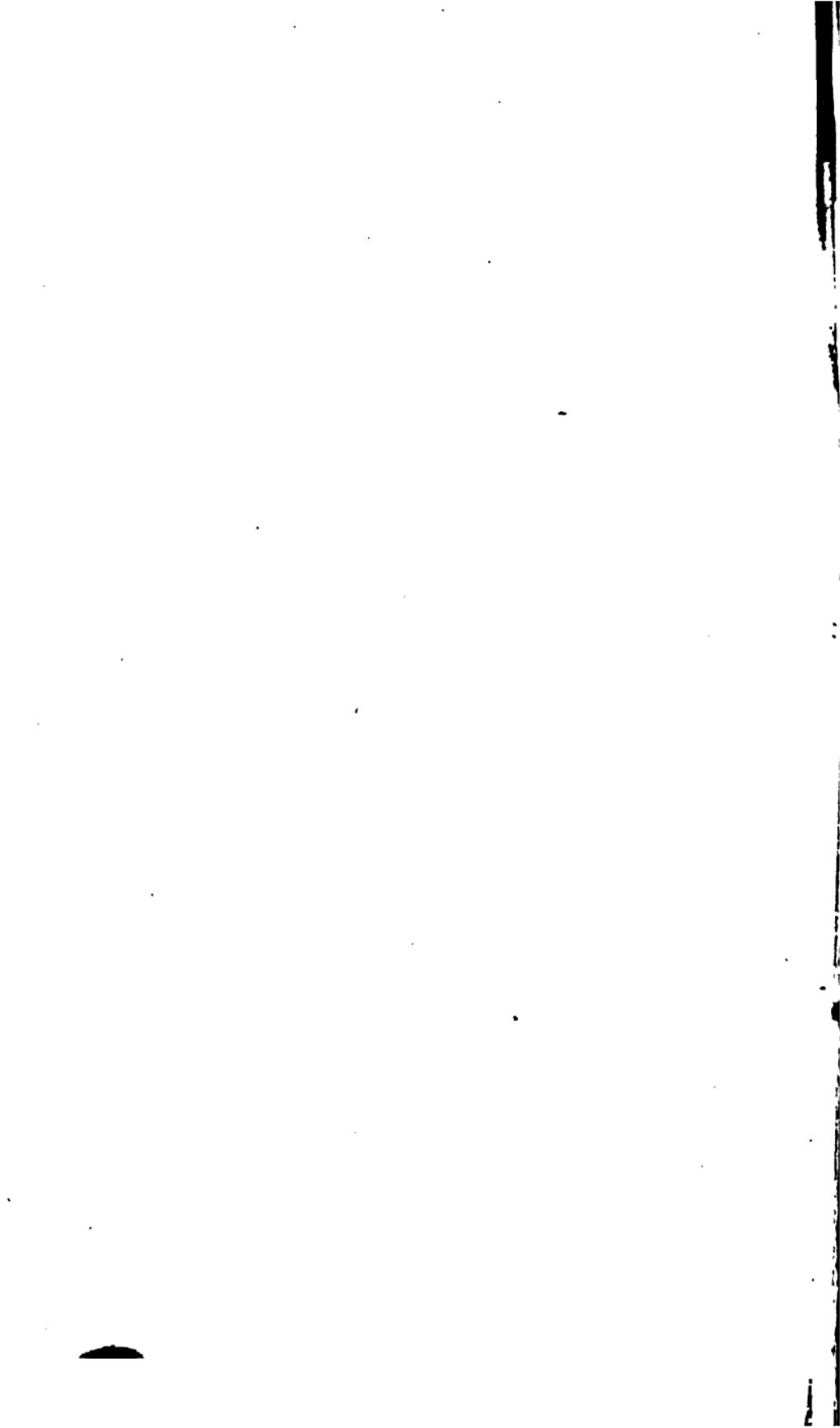
If there be such a thing as true happiness here below, I have partaken of it; my wife and I

seem to have two bodies animated by one soul ; she lives only to please me, and she charms me yet more by her virtue than her beauty, so that death only can destroy our happiness.

Having now attained considerable distinction in my profession, the predictions contained in the first chapter of these my memoirs have been fulfilled; I shall therefore take a respectful farewell of my readers, premising, however, that in their various vicissitudes through life they should remember me in my fagging peregrinations, and bear in mind, that if Adversity frowns to-day Prosperity may smile to-morrow.

THE END.





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